NEW LONE WOLF & CUB

新子連れ狼

KAZUO KOIKE
HIDEKI MORI

6

NEW LONE WOLF & CUB

新・子連れ狼

6

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Kazuo Koike

ART
Hideki Mori

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Goseki Kojima

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STUDIO CUTIE

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NEW LONE WOLF AND CUB VOLUME 6

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新・子連れ狼

LONE WOLF

原作・小池一夫
作画・森　秀樹
作画原案・小島剛夕

A NOTE TO READERS

NEW LONE WOLF AND CUB is a carefully researched re-creation of Edo-period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain terms of the period that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous words with multiple meanings. In the glossary, you may encounter these words. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning is intended, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet.

Some characters in this series come from the Satsuma region of Japan, an area with its own distinctive dialect. Some common words in this dialect have been left untranslated to better give the impression of this dialect being spoken. These terms are defined in the glossary. Other characters in the story come from places or cultural strata (country folk, gangsters) for which there is no direct translation to identify these characteristics. Here they are given corresponding Americanized speech patterns to highlight these traits.

新子連れ狼

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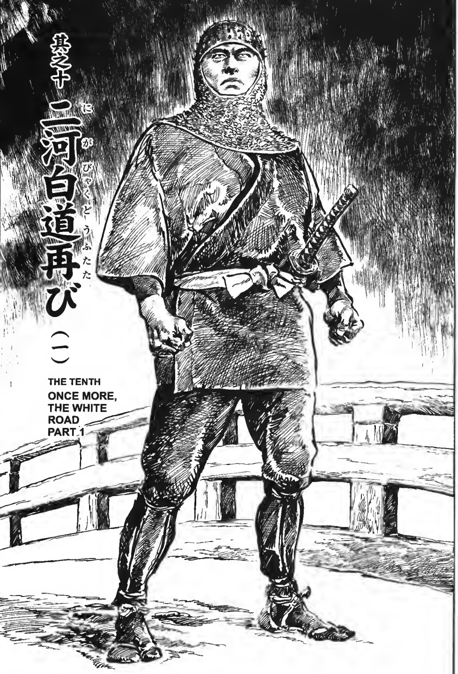


其之十

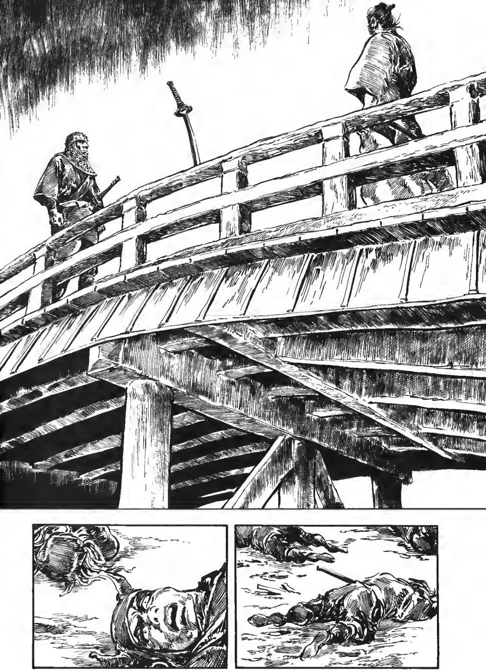
二河白道（にがびゃくどう）再（ふたた）び

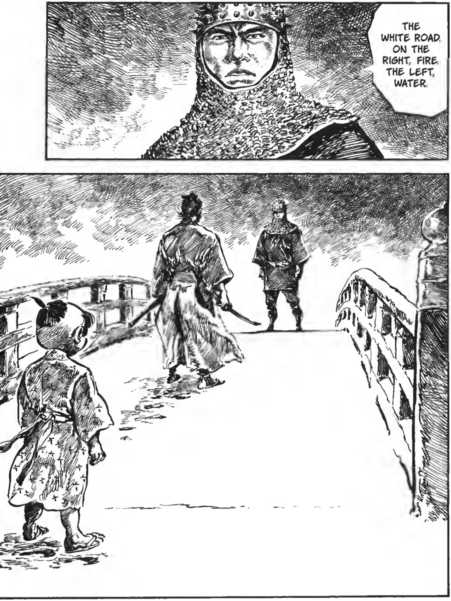
（一）

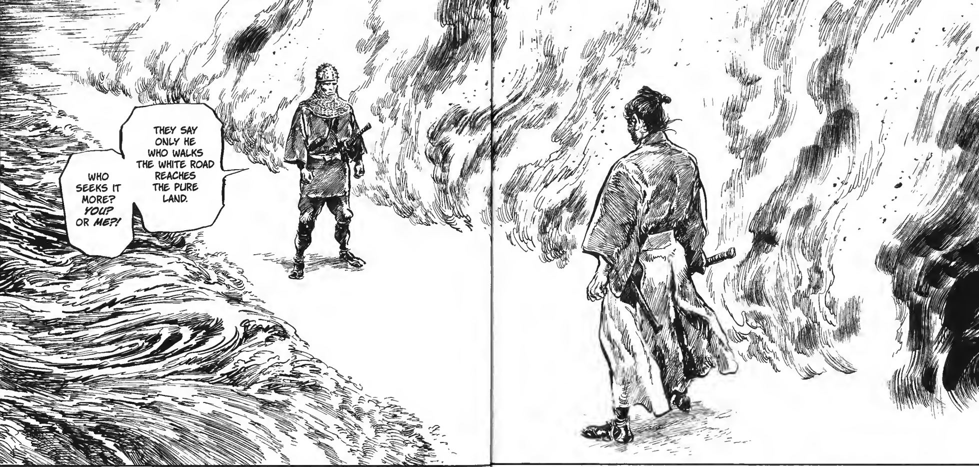
THE TENTH

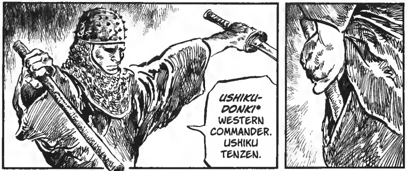
ONCE MORE, THE WHITE ROAD

PART 1

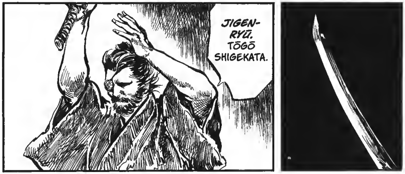


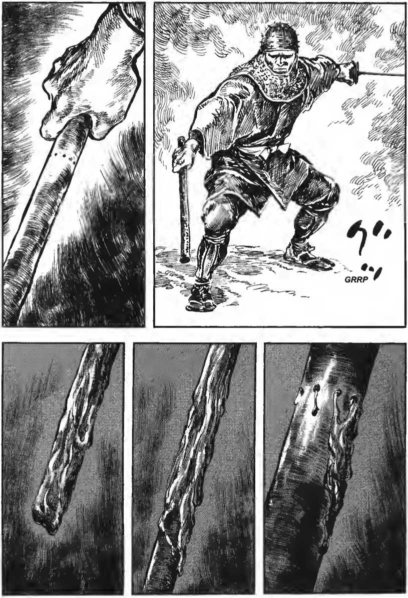

THE WHITE ROAD ON THE RIGHT, FIRE. THE LEFT, WATER.

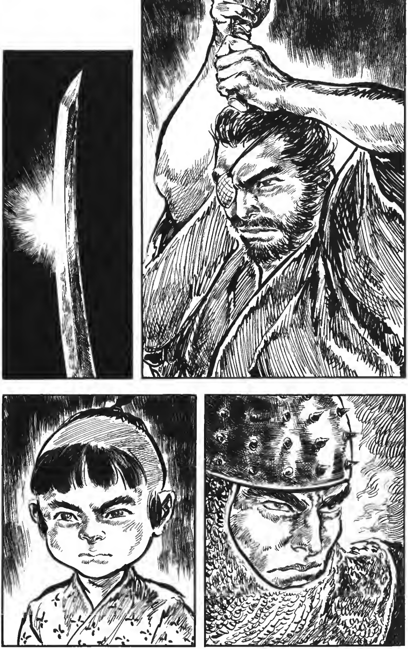

THEY SAY ONLY HE WHO WALKS THE WHITE ROAD REACHES THE PURE LAND.
WHO SEEKS IT MORE? *YOU?* OR *ME?!*

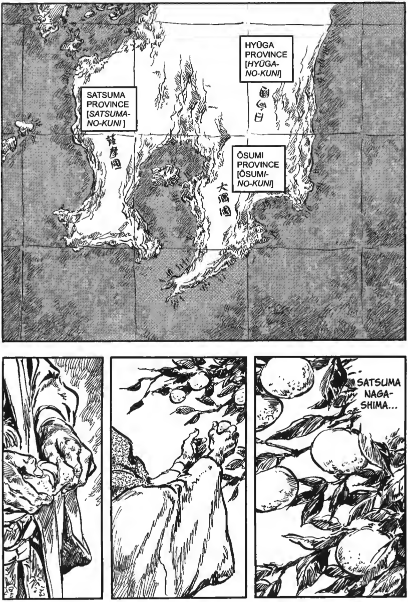

*USHIKU-DONKI** WESTERN COMMANDER. USHIKU TENZEN.

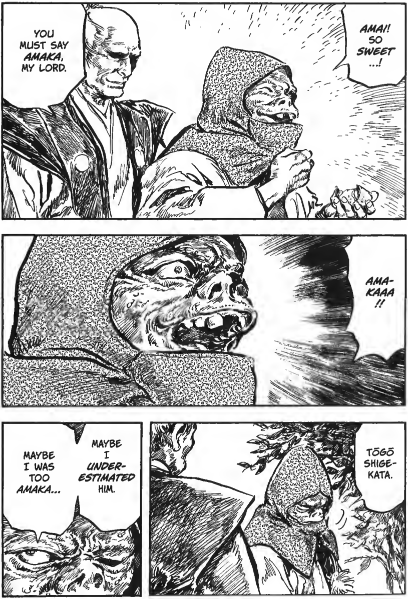
*SEE FOOTNOTES.

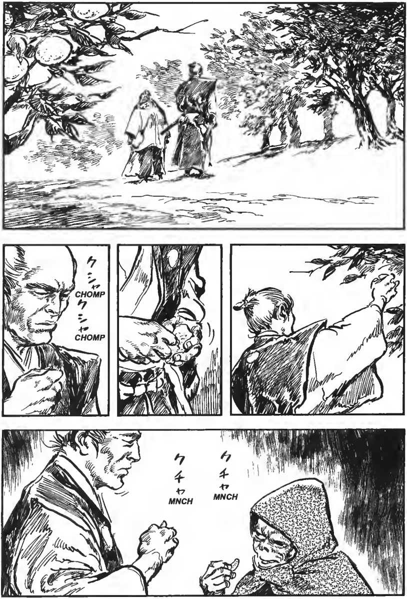

JIGEN-RYŪ. TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA.

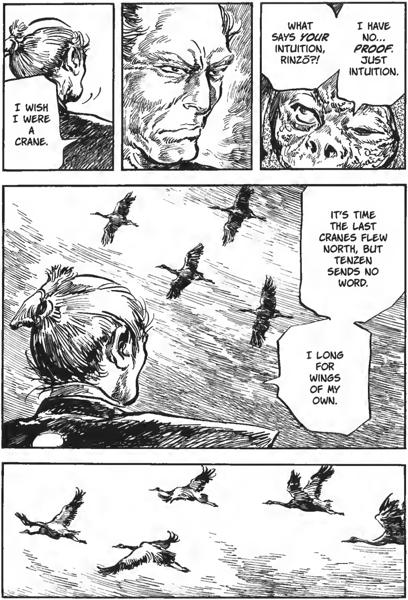

グッ
GRRP

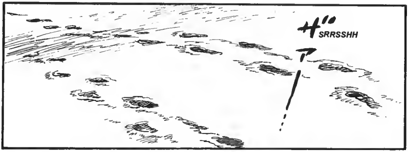


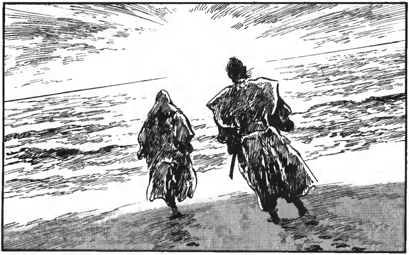

HYŪGA PROVINCE [*HYŪGA-NO-KUNI*]
國向日
SATSUMA PROVINCE [*SATSUMA-NO-KUNI*]
薩摩國
ŌSUMI PROVINCE [*ŌSUMI-NO-KUNI*]
大隅國
SATSUMA NAGASHIMA...

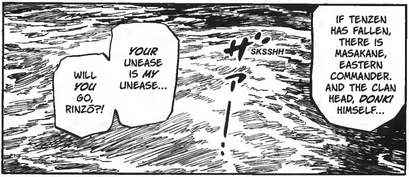

AMAI! SO *SWEET* ...!
YOU MUST SAY *AMAKA*, MY LORD.
AMAKAAA !!
MAYBE I WAS TOO *AMAKA*...
MAYBE I *UNDERESTIMATED* HIM.
TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA.

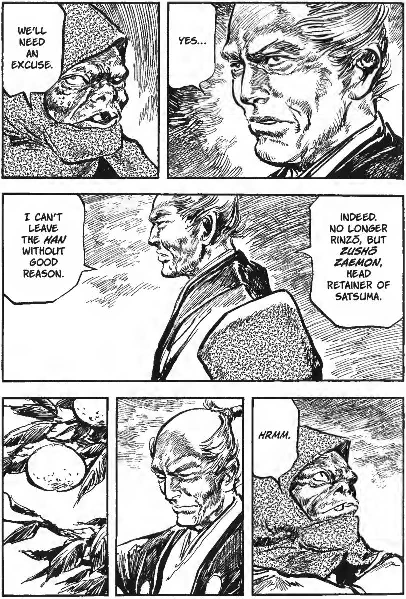

クシャ
CHOMP
クシャ
CHOMP
クチャ
MNCH
クチャ
MNCH

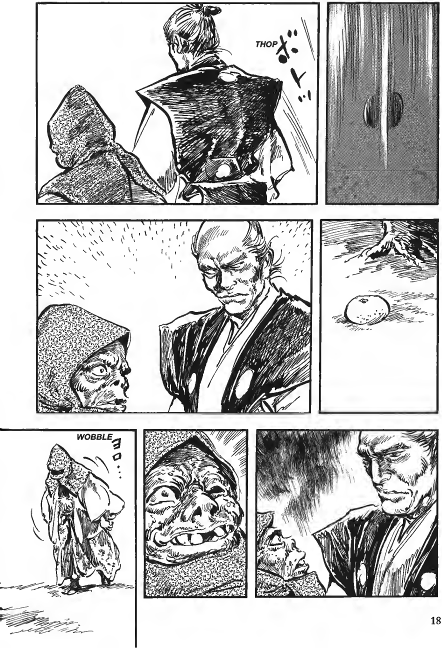

I WISH I WERE A CRANE.
WHAT SAYS *YOUR* INTUITION, RINZŌ?!
I HAVE NO... ***PROOF.*** JUST INTUITION.
IT'S TIME THE LAST CRANES FLEW NORTH, BUT TENZEN SENDS NO WORD.
I LONG FOR WINGS OF MY OWN.

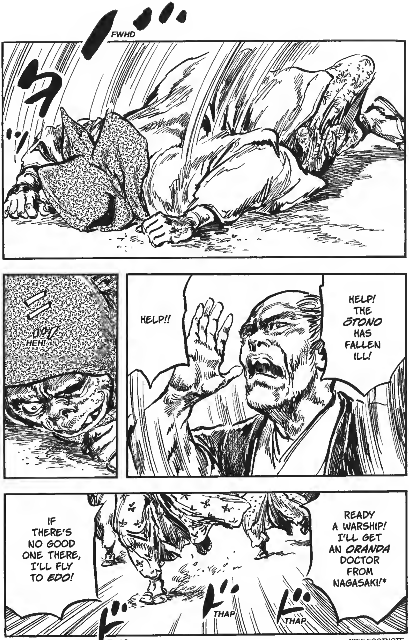

ザ
SRRSSHH



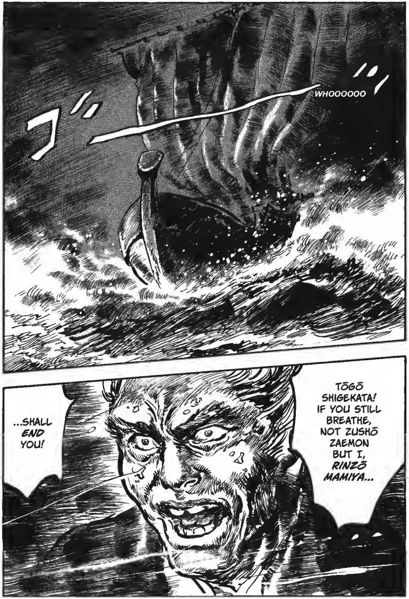

IF TENZEN HAS FALLEN, THERE IS MASAKANE, EASTERN COMMANDER. AND THE CLAN HEAD, *DONKI* HIMSELF...
ザ
SKSSHH
YOUR UNEASE IS *MY* UNEASE...
WILL *YOU* GO, RINZŌ?!

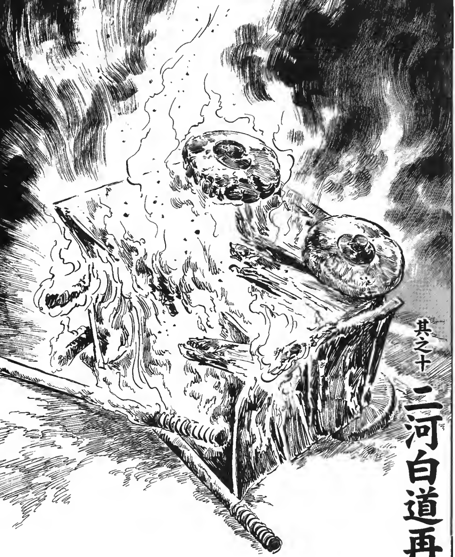

WE'LL NEED AN EXCUSE.
YES...
I CAN'T LEAVE THE *HAN* WITHOUT GOOD REASON.
INDEED. NO LONGER RINZŌ, BUT *ZUSHŌ ZAEMON*, HEAD RETAINER OF SATSUMA.
HRMM.


THOP
ボト…
WOBBLE
ヨロ…


FWHD
HELP! THE ŌTONO HAS FALLEN ILL!
HELP!!
HEH!
READY A WARSHIP! I'LL GET AN ORANDA DOCTOR FROM NAGASAKI!*
IF THERE'S NO GOOD ONE THERE, I'LL FLY TO EDO!
THAP
THAP
THAP

*SEE FOOTNOTE.


ゴ''
WHOOOOOO
TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA! IF YOU STILL BREATHE, NOT ZUSHŌ ZAEMON BUT I, *RINZŌ MAMIYA*...
...SHALL *END* YOU!



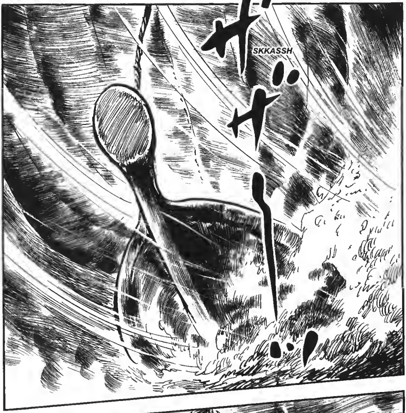
其之十

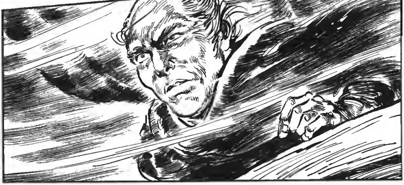
二河白道再び（二）

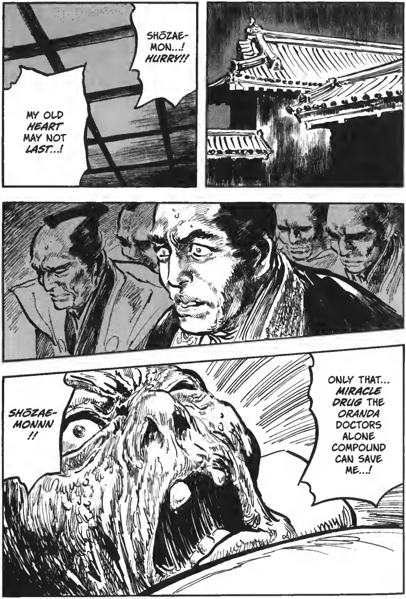
THE TENTH

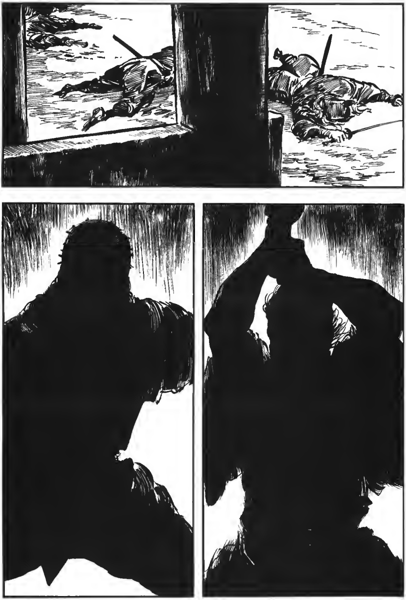
ONCE MORE, THE WHITE ROAD

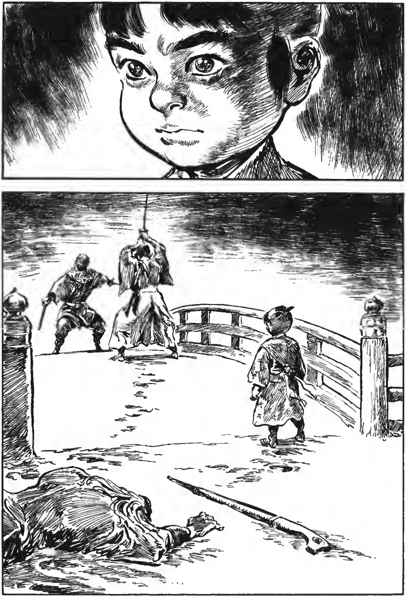
PART 2

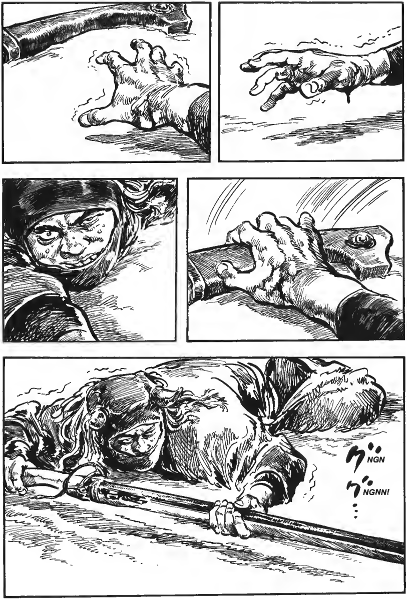

ザザーッ
SKKASSH

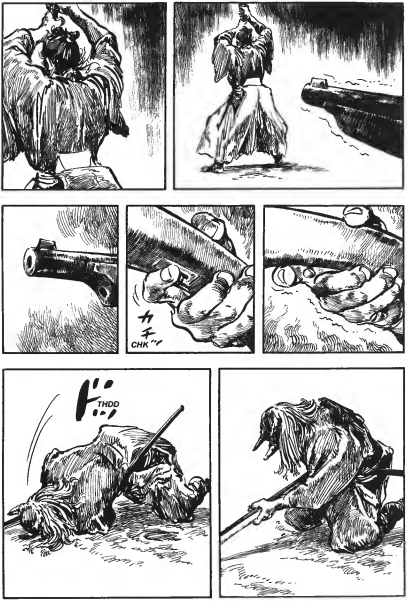


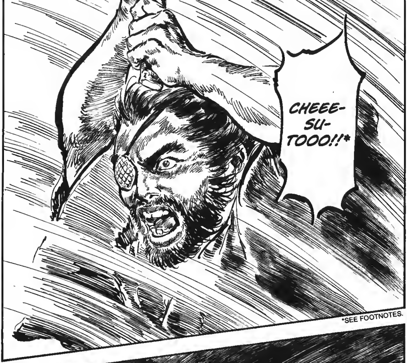

SHŌZAEMON...! *HURRY!!*
MY OLD *HEART* MAY NOT *LAST*...!
SHŌZAEMONNN !!
ONLY THAT... *MIRACLE DRUG* THE *ORANDA* DOCTORS ALONE COMPOUND CAN SAVE ME...!



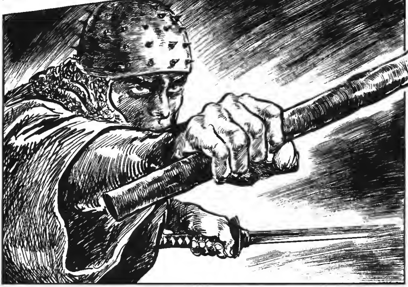


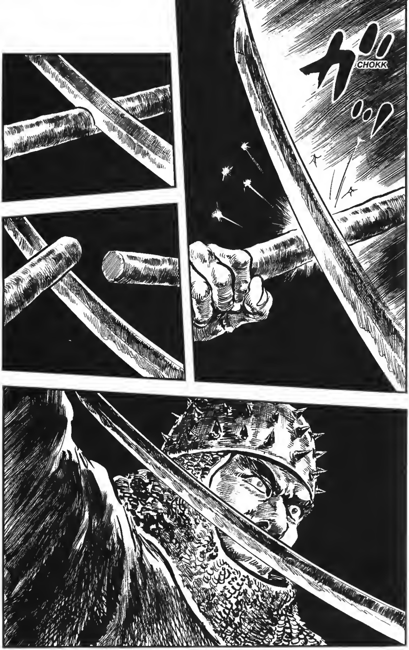

グ NGN
グ NGNN!
⋮

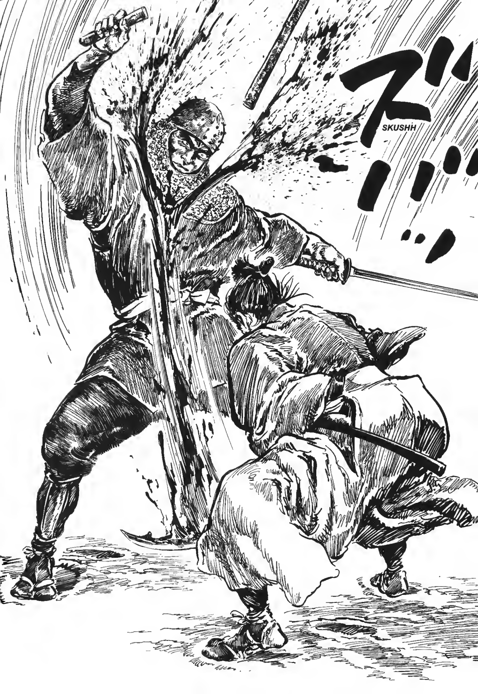

カチ
CHK
ドッ
THDD

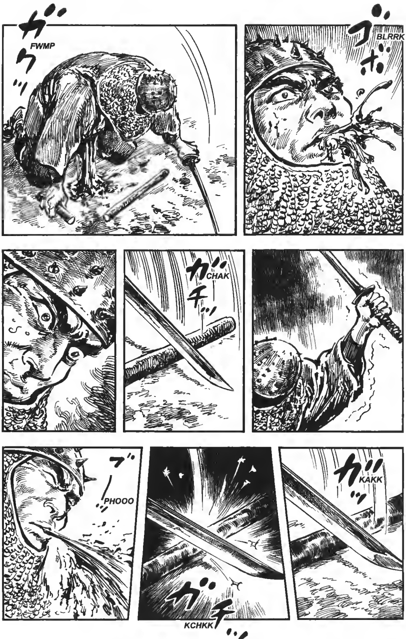

CHEEE-SU-TOOO!!*

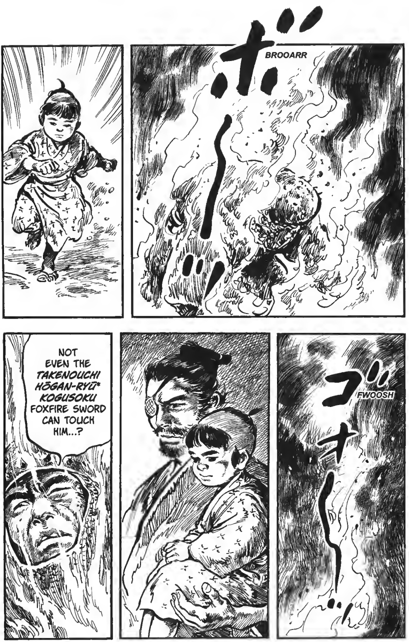
*SEE FOOTNOTES.

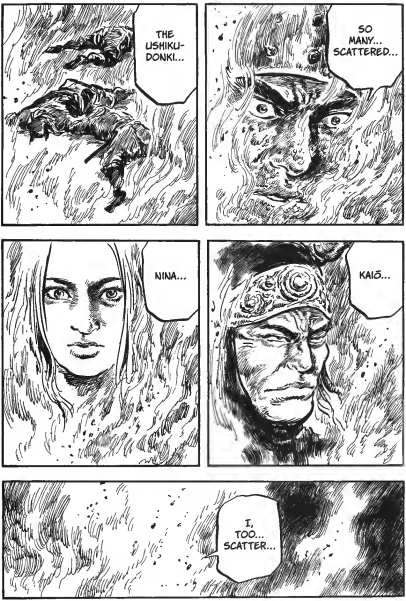


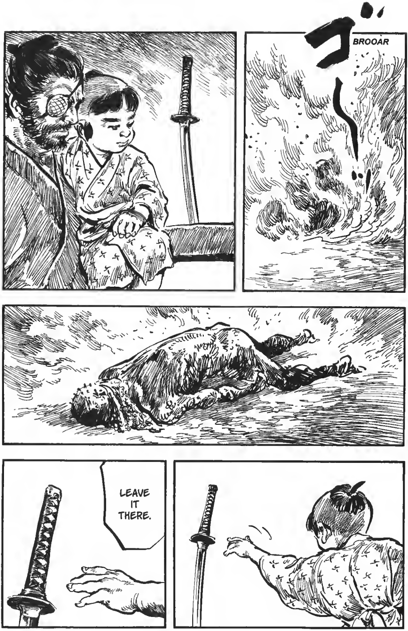

ガッ
CHOKK

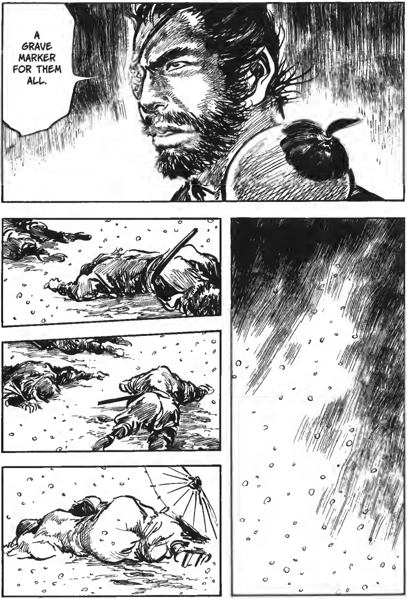

ズバ!!...
SKUSHH

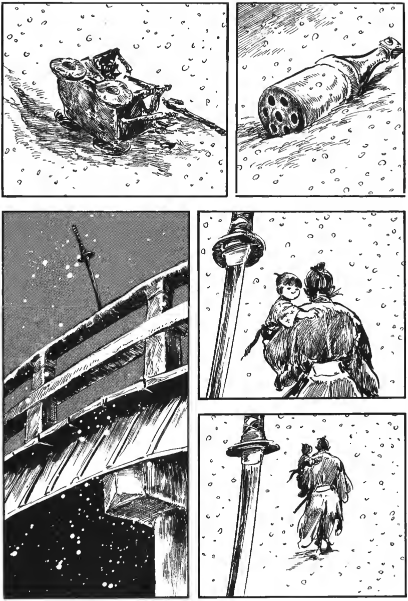

ガクッ
FWMP
ゴボ
BLRRK
カチッ
CHAK
ブーッ
PHOOO
ガチッ
KCHKK
ガッ
KAKK


ボ〜ッ!
BROOARR
ゴオ〜ッ!
FWOOSH
NOT EVEN THE *TAKENOUCHI HŌGAN-RYŪ** *KOGUSOKU* FOXFIRE SWORD CAN TOUCH HIM...?

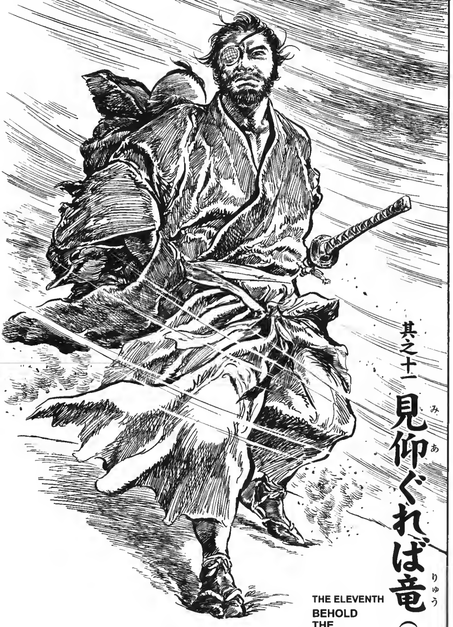

THE USHIKU-DONKI...
SO MANY... SCATTERED...
NINA...
KAIŌ...
I, TOO... SCATTER...


ゴー
BROOAR
LEAVE IT THERE.


A GRAVE MARKER FOR THEM ALL.

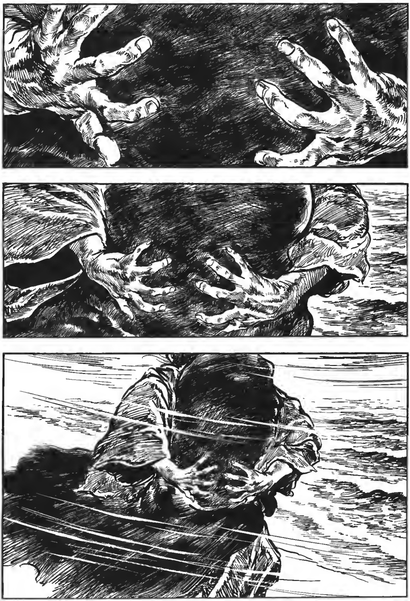


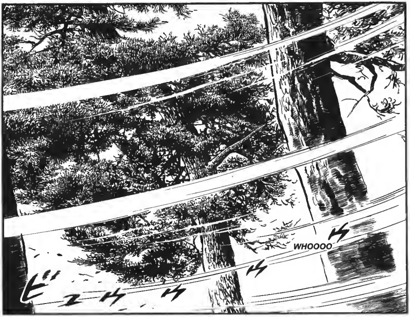
THE TENTH: ONCE MORE, THE WHITE ROAD. THE END.

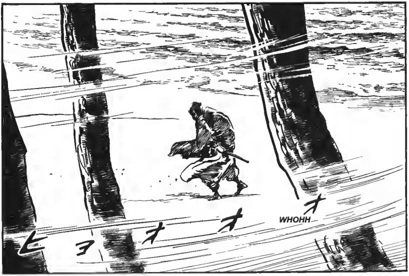


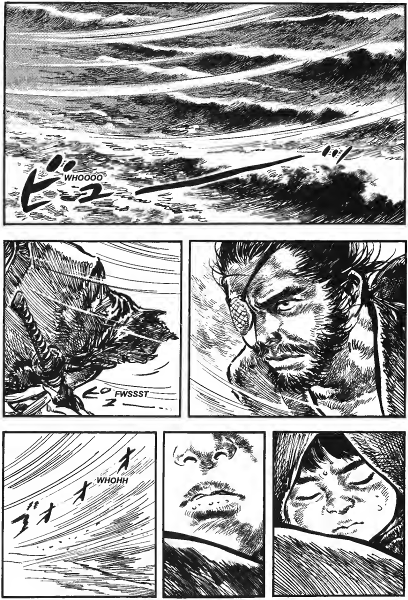
其之十一 見仰ぐれば竜（一）

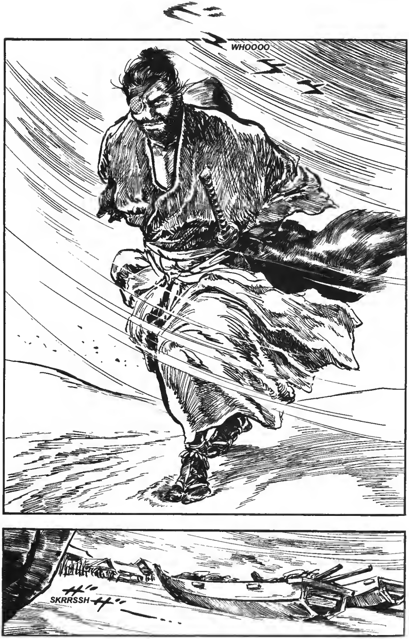
THE ELEVENTH
BEHOLD THE DRAGON
PART 1

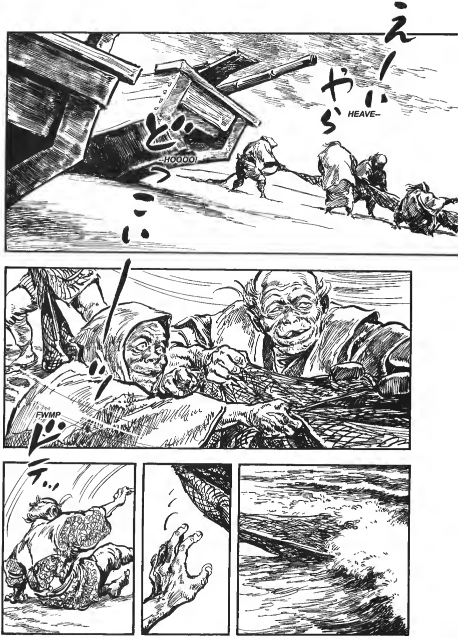


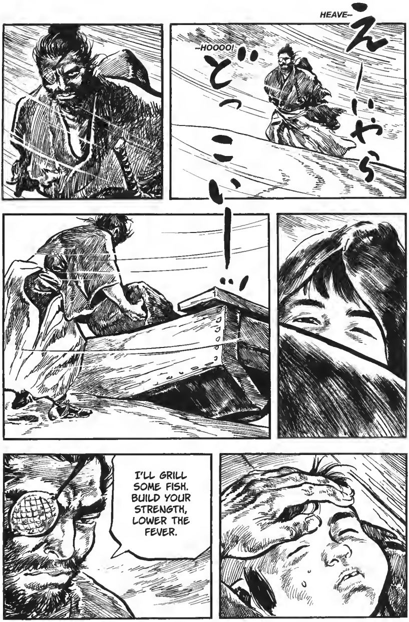

ビュウウウウウ
WHOOOO

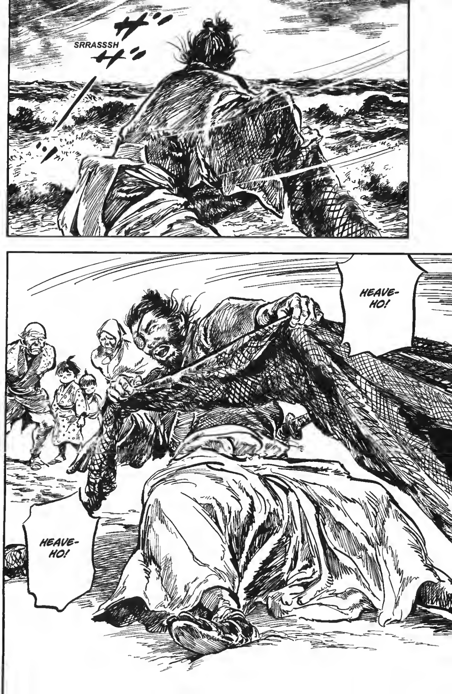

ヒョオオオ
WHOHH

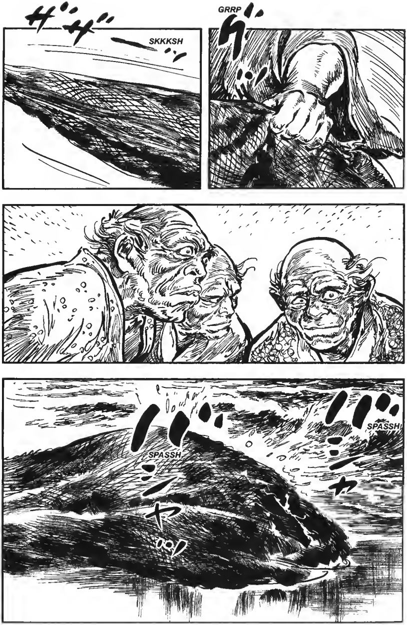

ビュー
WHOOOO
ッ
ヒュ
FWSSST
ゴオオオ
WHOHH

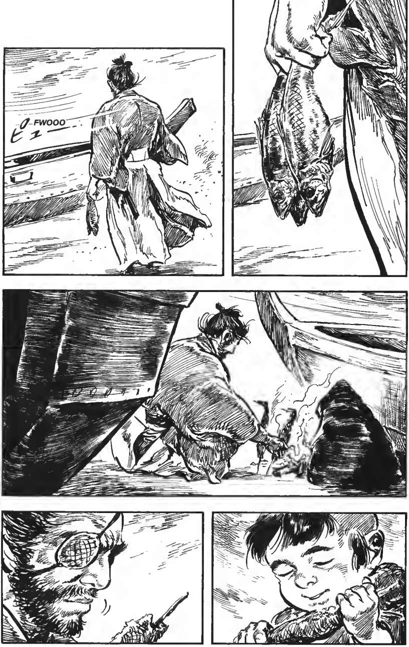

WHOOOO
SKRRSSH

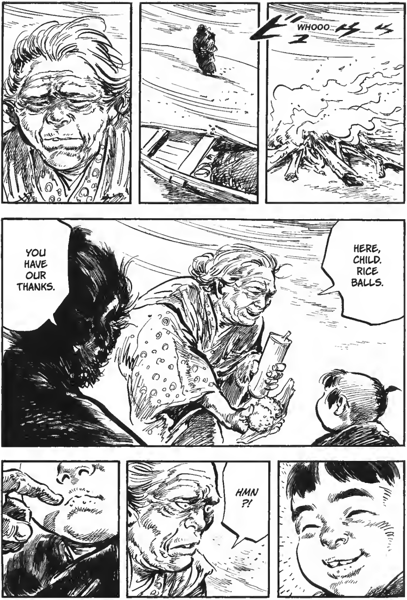

えーい
やら
HEAVE--
どっこいーッ
--HOOOOI
FWMP
ドテ…

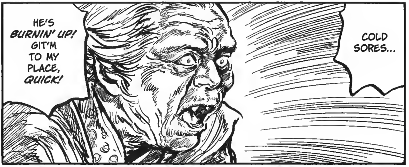

HEAVE–
えーいやら
–HOOOO!
どっこいー!..
I'LL GRILL SOME FISH. BUILD YOUR STRENGTH, LOWER THE FEVER.

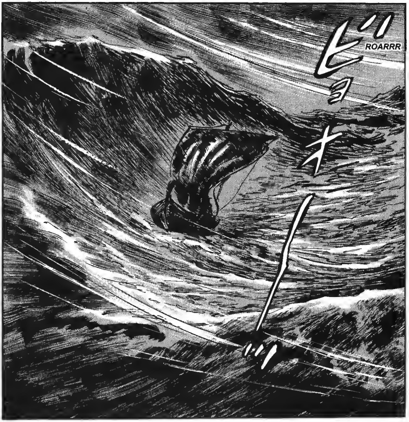

SRRASSSH
HEAVE-HO!
HEAVE-HO!

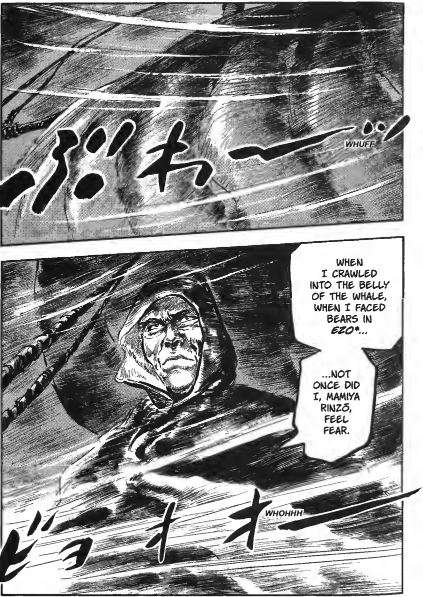

SKKKSH
GRRP
SPASSH!
SPASSH


ヒュ
FWOOO

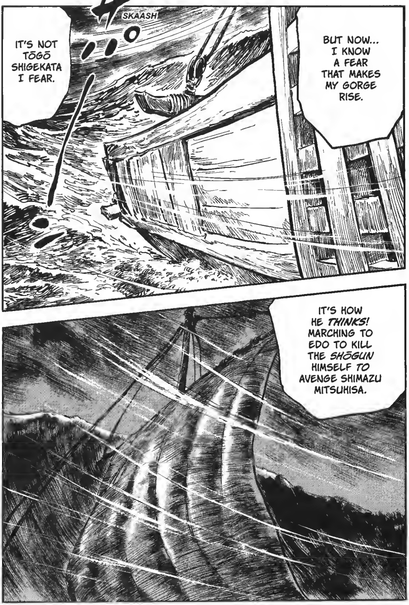

WHOOO
HERE, CHILD. RICE BALLS.
YOU HAVE OUR THANKS.
HMN ?!

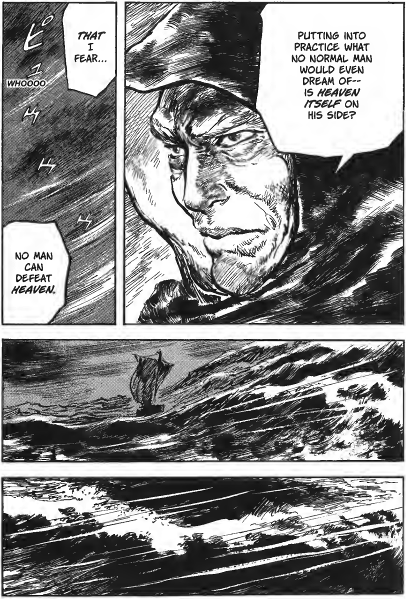

COLD SORES...
HE'S *BURNIN' UP!* GIT'M TO MY PLACE, *QUICK!*

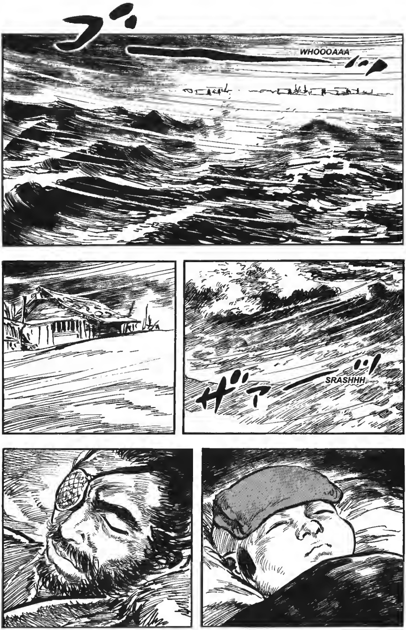

ビョオーー
ROARRR

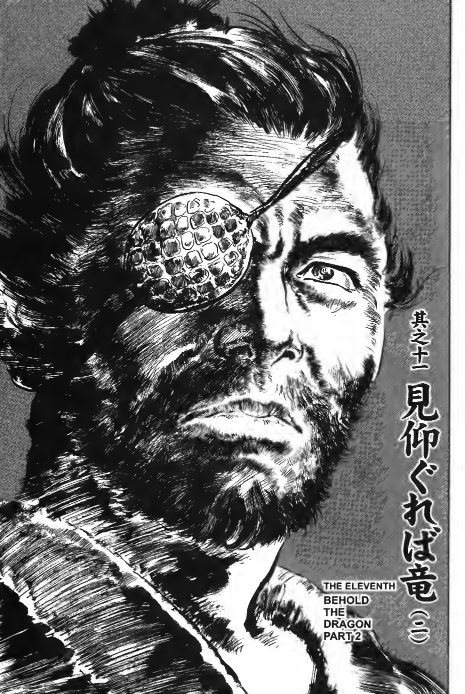

ぶわ〜〜っ
WHUFF
WHEN I CRAWLED INTO THE BELLY OF THE WHALE, WHEN I FACED BEARS IN *EZO**...
...NOT ONCE DID I, MAMIYA RINZŌ, FEEL FEAR.
ビョオオ——
WHOHHH

*SEE FOOTNOTES.


SKAASH
BUT NOW... I KNOW A FEAR THAT MAKES MY GORGE RISE.
IT'S NOT TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA I FEAR.
IT'S HOW HE *THINKS!* MARCHING TO EDO TO KILL THE *SHŌGUN* HIMSELF *TO* AVENGE SHIMAZU MITSUHISA.


PUTTING INTO PRACTICE WHAT NO NORMAL MAN WOULD EVEN DREAM OF-- IS *HEAVEN ITSELF* ON HIS SIDE?
THAT I FEAR...
WHOOOO
NO MAN CAN DEFEAT *HEAVEN.*


ゴーーッ
WHOOOAAA
ザァーーッ
SRASHHH



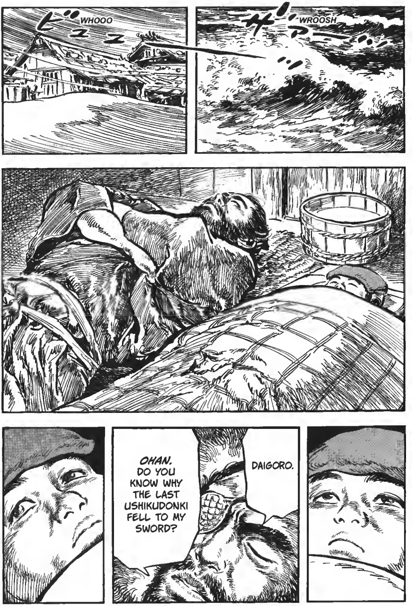
其之十一

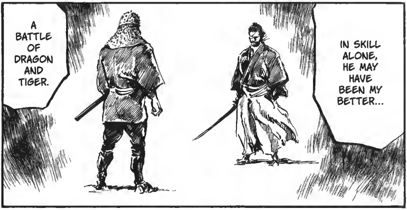
見仰ぐれば竜（二）

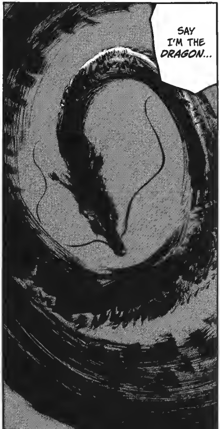
THE ELEVENTH

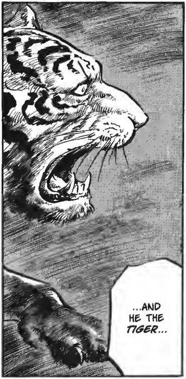
BEHOLD THE DRAGON

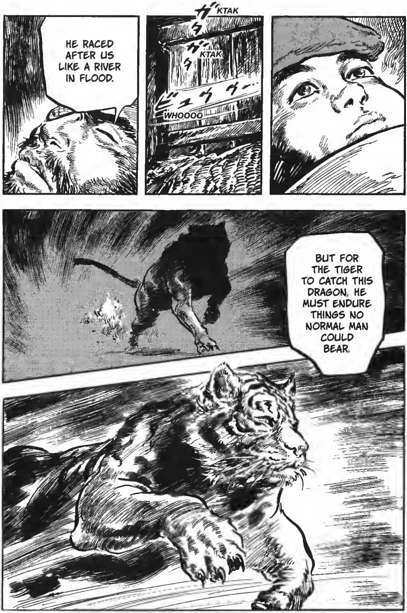
PART 2

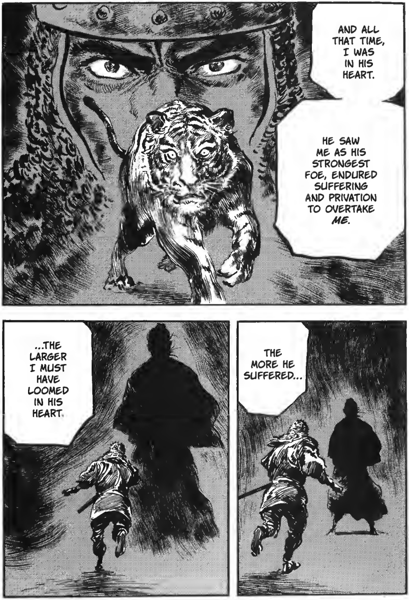

ビュュ
WHOOO
ザァ
WROOSH
OHAN. DO YOU KNOW WHY THE LAST USHIKUDONKI FELL TO MY SWORD?
DAIGORO.

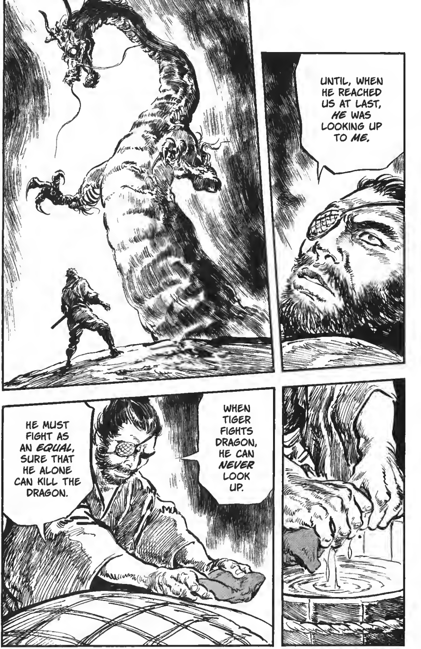

IN SKILL ALONE, HE MAY HAVE BEEN MY BETTER...
A BATTLE OF DRAGON AND TIGER.

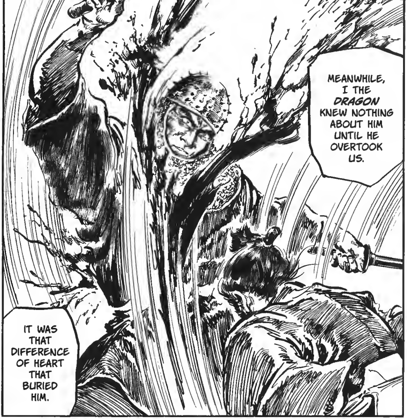

SAY I'M THE *DRAGON...*

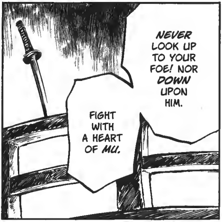

...AND HE THE *TIGER...*

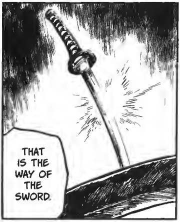

HE RACED AFTER US LIKE A RIVER IN FLOOD.
ガタ KTAK
ガタ KTAK
ビュウウー WHOOOO
BUT FOR THE TIGER TO CATCH THIS DRAGON, HE MUST ENDURE THINGS NO NORMAL MAN COULD BEAR.

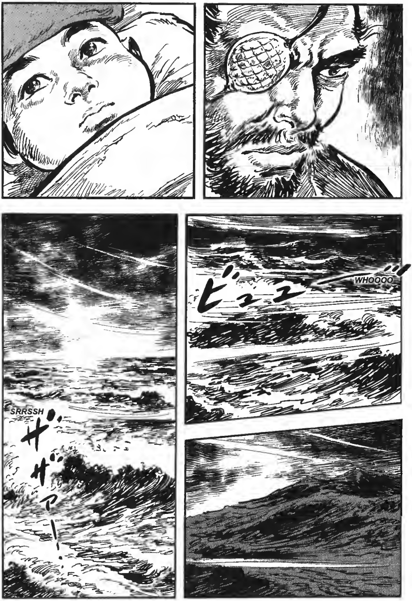

AND ALL THAT TIME, I WAS IN HIS HEART.
HE SAW ME AS HIS STRONGEST FOE, ENDURED SUFFERING AND PRIVATION TO OVERTAKE *ME*.
THE MORE HE SUFFERED...
...THE LARGER I MUST HAVE LOOMED IN HIS HEART.

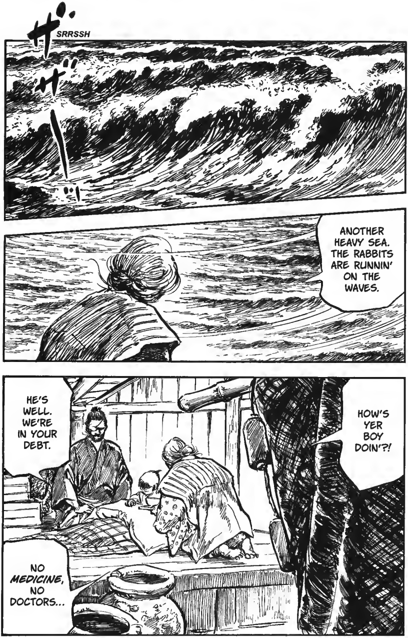

UNTIL, WHEN HE REACHED US AT LAST, *HE* WAS LOOKING UP TO *ME.*
WHEN TIGER FIGHTS DRAGON, HE CAN *NEVER* LOOK UP.
HE MUST FIGHT AS AN *EQUAL*, SURE THAT HE ALONE CAN KILL THE DRAGON.

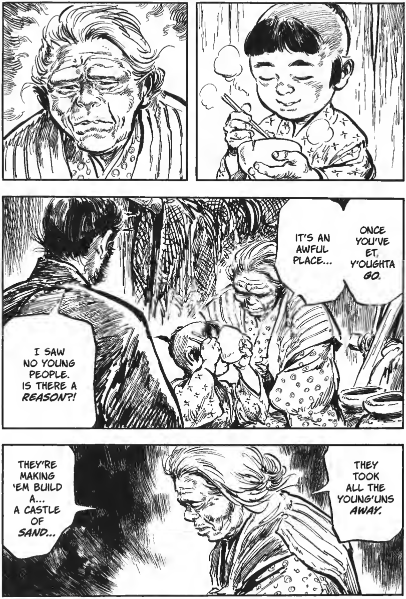

MEANWHILE, I THE *DRAGON* KNEW NOTHING ABOUT HIM UNTIL HE OVERTOOK US.
IT WAS THAT DIFFERENCE OF HEART THAT BURIED HIM.

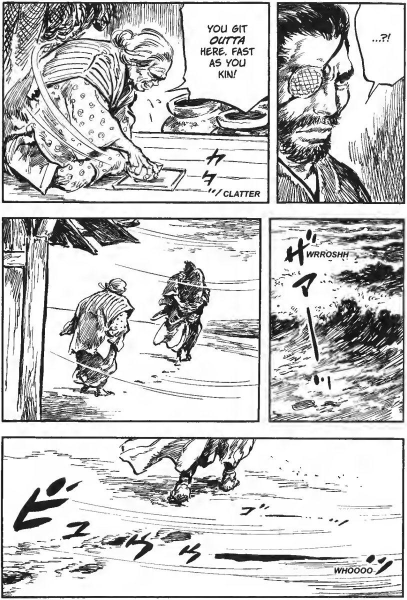

NEVER LOOK UP TO YOUR FOE! NOR *DOWN* UPON HIM.
FIGHT WITH A HEART OF *MU.*

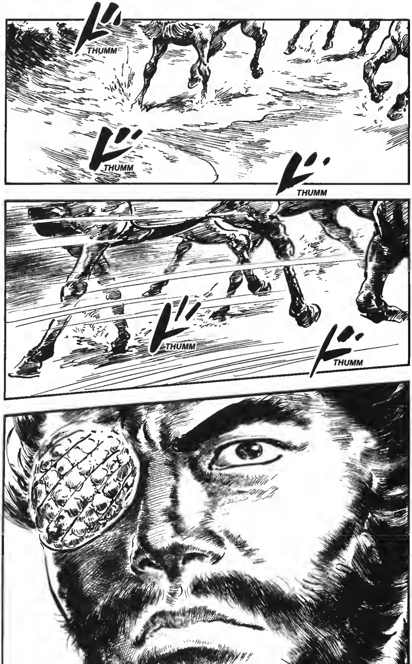

THAT IS THE WAY OF THE SWORD.

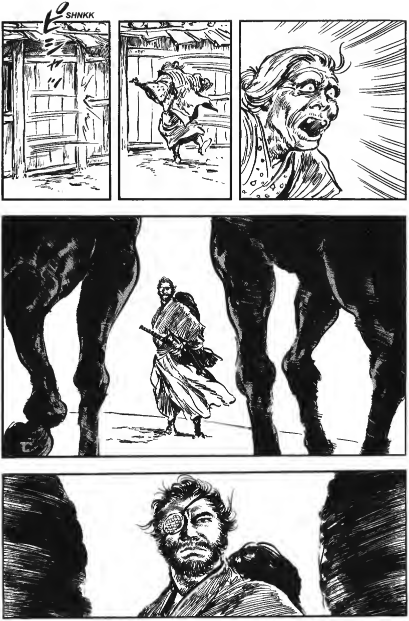

ビュゥ
WHOOOO
ザザァー!
SRRSSH

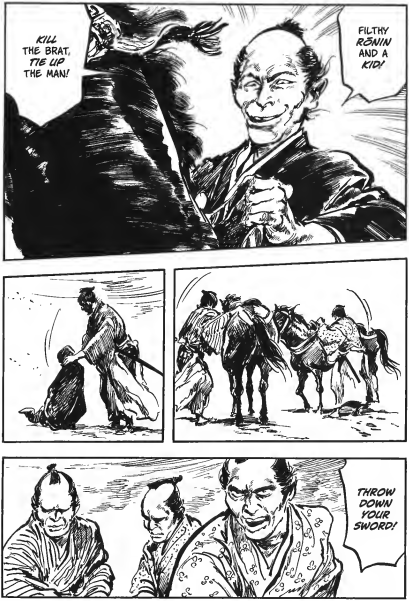

SRRSSH
ANOTHER HEAVY SEA. THE RABBITS ARE RUNNIN' ON THE WAVES.
HOW'S YER BOY DOIN'?!
HE'S WELL. WE'RE IN YOUR DEBT.
NO *MEDICINE,* NO DOCTORS...

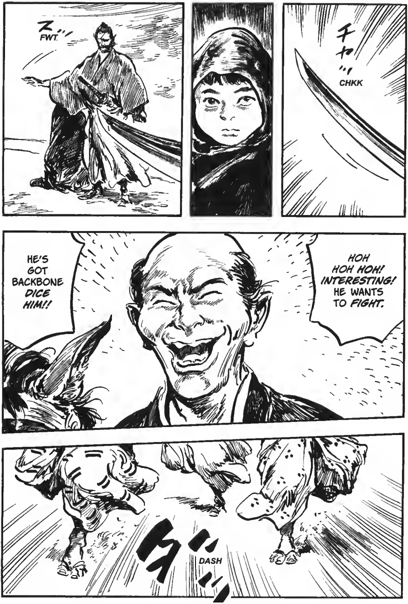

ONCE YOU'VE ET, Y'OUGHTA *GO.*
IT'S AN AWFUL PLACE...
I SAW NO YOUNG PEOPLE. IS THERE A *REASON?!*
THEY TOOK ALL THE YOUNG'UNS *AWAY.*
THEY'RE MAKING 'EM BUILD A... A CASTLE OF *SAND...*

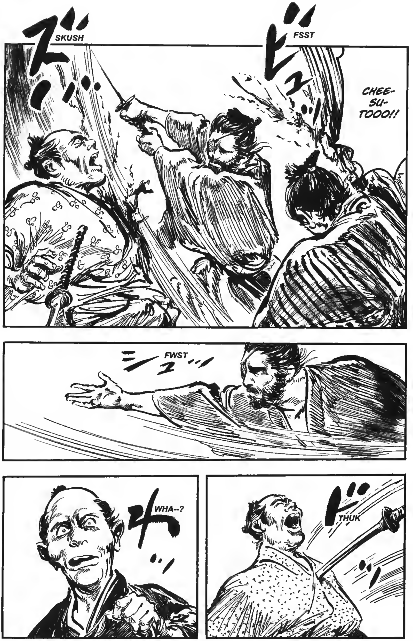

YOU GIT *OUTTA* HERE. FAST AS YOU KIN!
カタッ
CLATTER
...?!
ザアー…
WRROSHH
ビュウウウ
ゴー…
WHOOOO


ド THUMM
ド THUMM
ド THUMM
ド THUMM
ド THUMM


SHNKK


FILTHY *RŌNIN* AND A *KID!*
KILL THE BRAT, *TIE UP* THE MAN!
THROW DOWN YOUR SWORD!

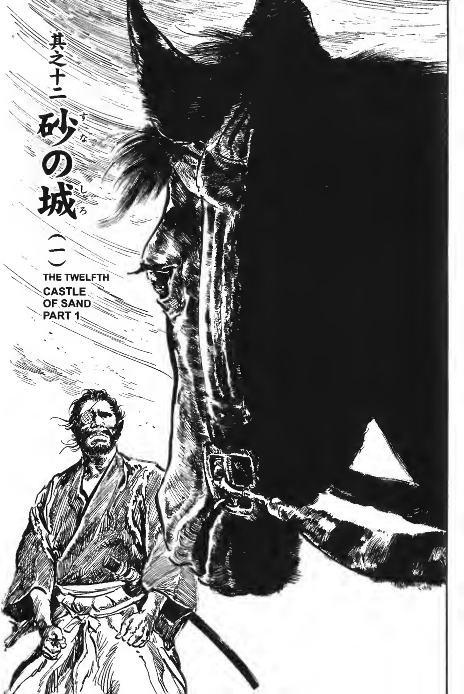

ズ
FWT.
チャ
CHKK
HE'S GOT BACKBONE *DICE HIM!!*
HOH HOH HOH! INTERESTING! HE WANTS TO *FIGHT.*
ダッ
DASH

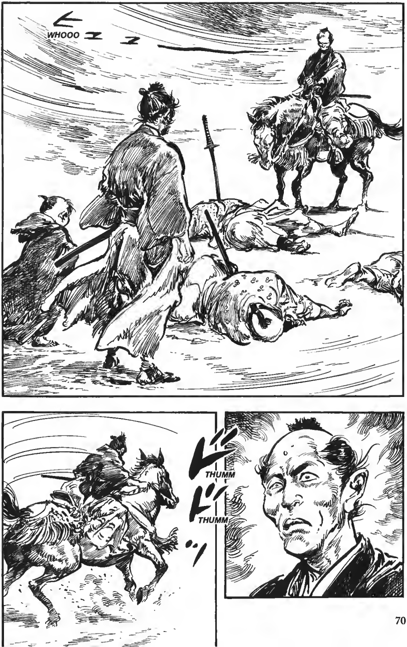

SKUSH
FSST
CHEE-SU-TOOO!!
FWST
WHA--?
THUK

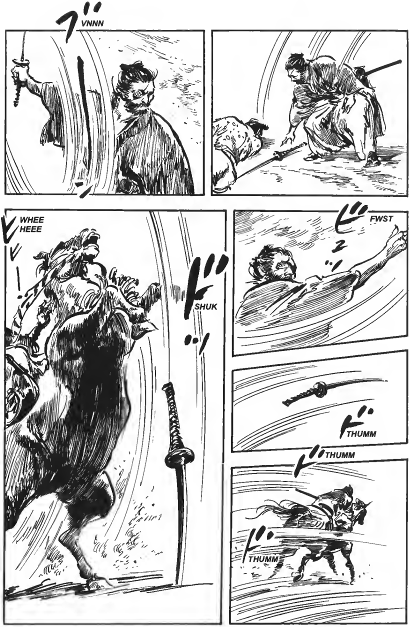
THE ELEVENTH: BEHOLD THE DRAGON. THE END.

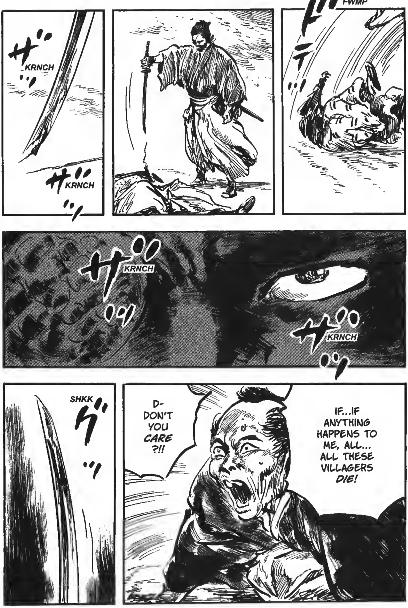
其之十二
砂の城（一）

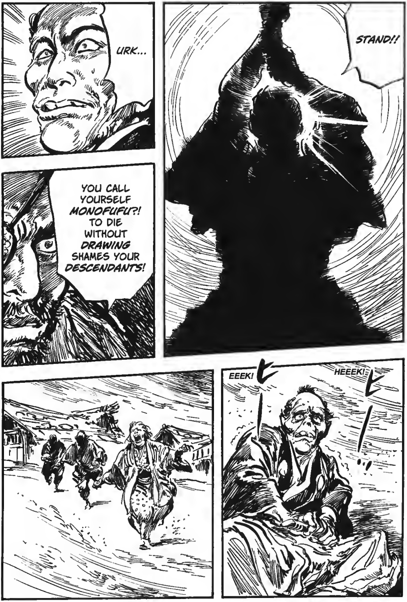
THE TWELFTH
CASTLE OF SAND
PART 1

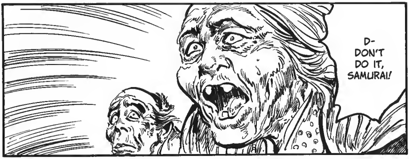


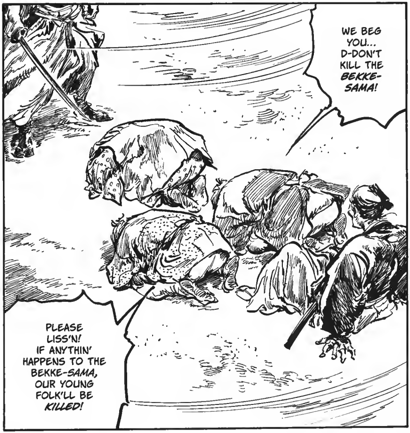

WHOOO
THUMM
THUMM

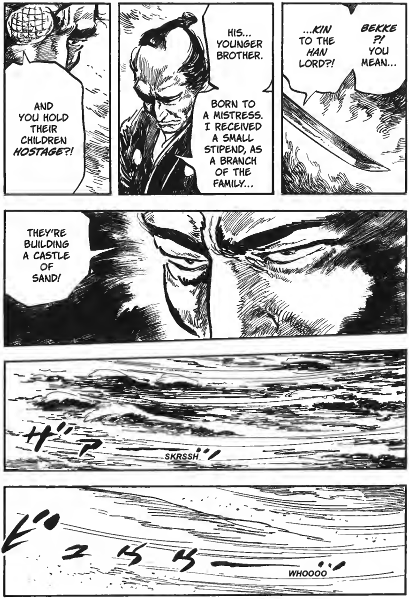

VNNN
WHEE HEEE
SHUK
FWST
THUMM
THUMM
THUMM

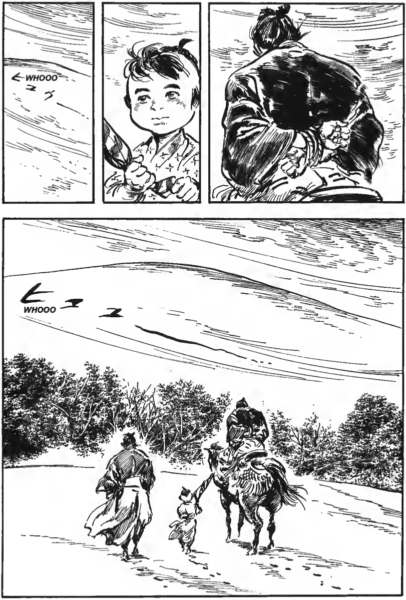

ザッ
KRNCH
ザッ
KRNCH
ドテッ
FWMP
ザッ
KRNCH
ザッ
KRNCH
グッ
SHKK
D-DON'T YOU *CARE*?!!
IF...IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, ALL... ALL THESE VILLAGERS *DIE*!

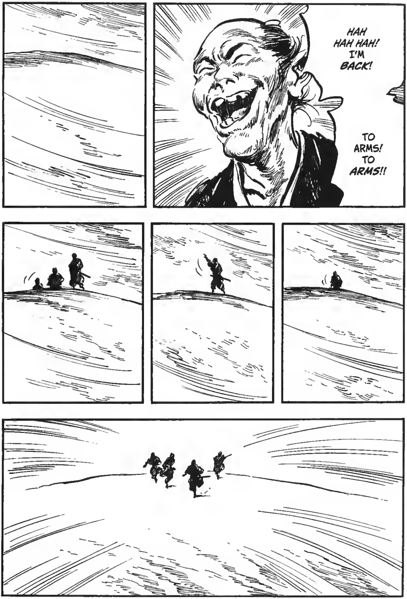

URK...
STAND!!
YOU CALL YOURSELF *MONOFUFU*?! TO DIE WITHOUT *DRAWING* SHAMES YOUR *DESCENDANTS!*
EEEK!
HEEEK!

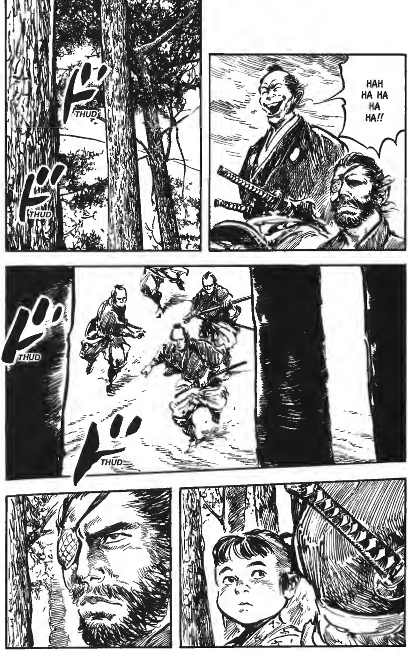

D-DON'T DO IT, SAMURAI!

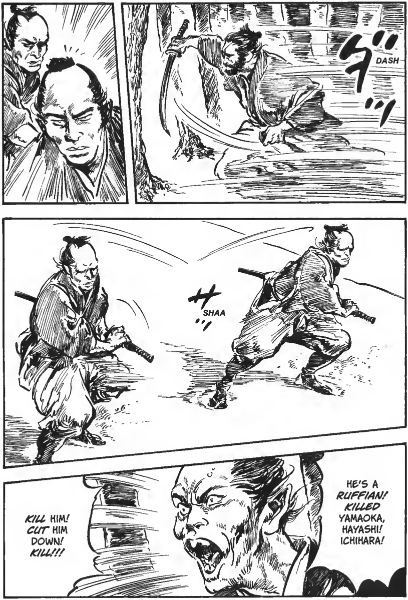

WE BEG YOU... D-DON'T KILL THE *BEKKE-SAMA!*
PLEASE LISS'N! IF ANYTHIN' HAPPENS TO THE BEKKE-*SAMA,* OUR YOUNG FOLK'LL BE *KILLED!*

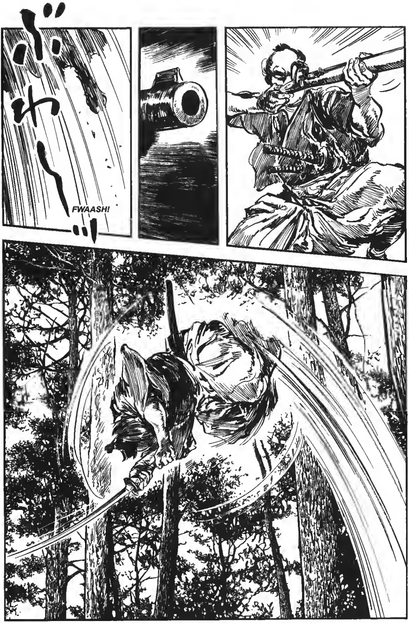

BEKKE?! YOU MEAN...
...KIN TO THE HAN LORD?!
HIS... YOUNGER BROTHER.
BORN TO A MISTRESS. I RECEIVED A SMALL STIPEND, AS A BRANCH OF THE FAMILY...
AND YOU HOLD THEIR CHILDREN HOSTAGE?!
THEY'RE BUILDING A CASTLE OF SAND!
ザァ
SKRSSH
ドュゥゥ
WHOOOO

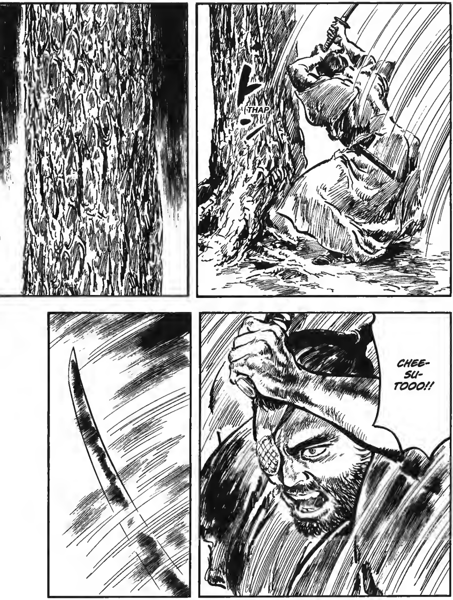

ヒュゥ
WHOOO
ヒュュ
WHOOO

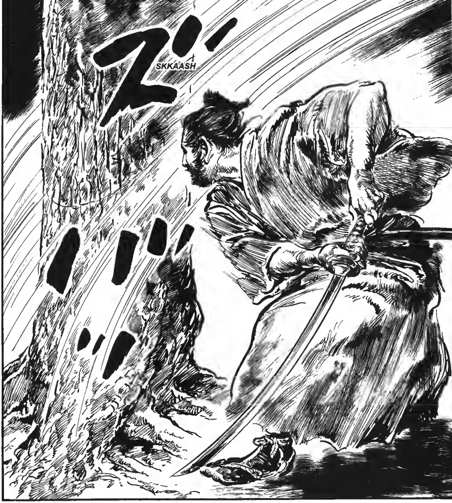

HAH HAH HAH! I'M BACK!
TO ARMS! TO ARMS!!

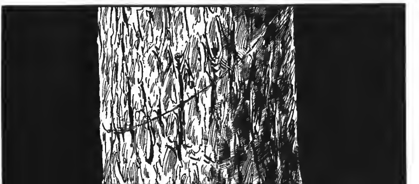

HAH HA HA HA HA!!
ド THUD
ド THUD
ド THUD
ド THUD

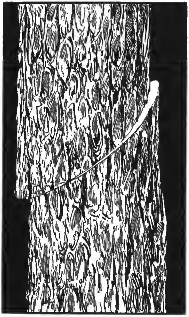
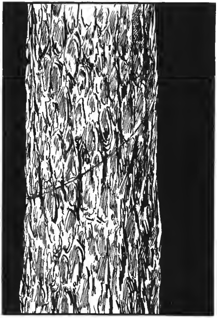

DASH
SHAA
HE'S A *RUFFIAN! KILLED* YAMAOKA, HAYASHI! ICHIHARA!
KILL HIM! *CUT* HIM *DOWN! KILL!!!*

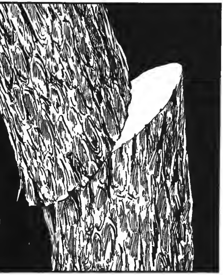
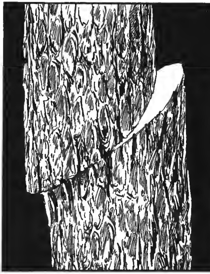

ぶわ〜ッ
FWAASHI

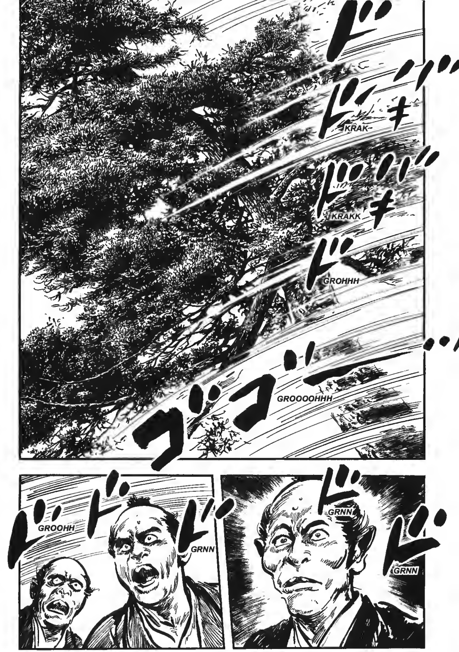

THAP
CHEE-SU-TOOO!!


ズバッ
SKKAASH





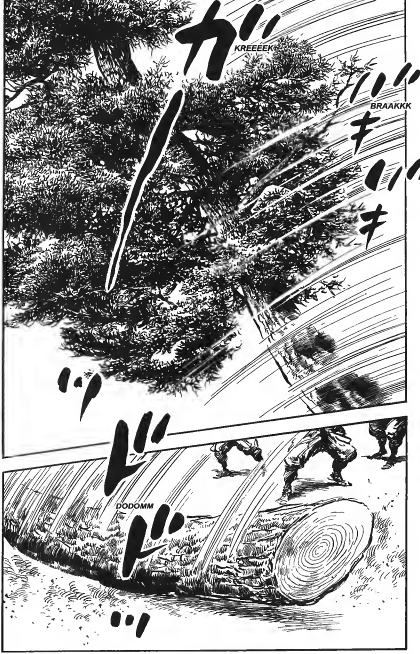


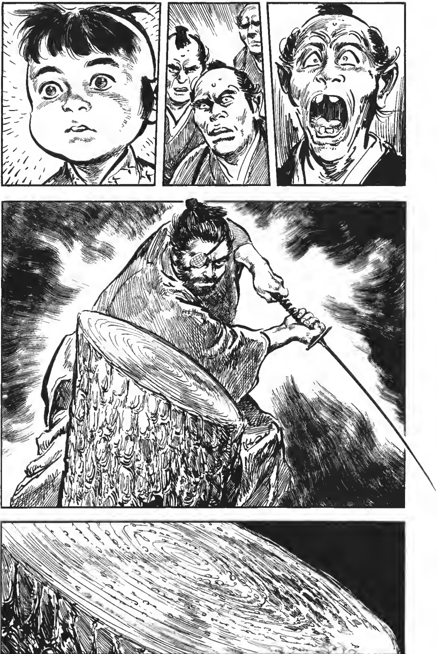

ド
ドバキ
KRAK-
ドバキ
KRAKK
ド
GROHHH
ゴゴー…
GROOOOHHH
ド
GRNN
ド
GRNN
ド
GRNN
ド
ド
GROOHH

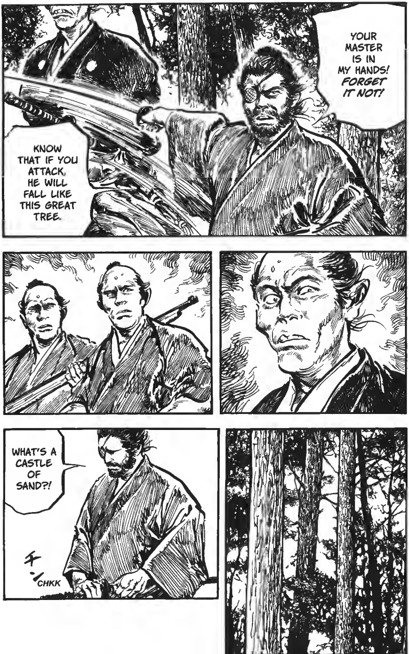
其之十二

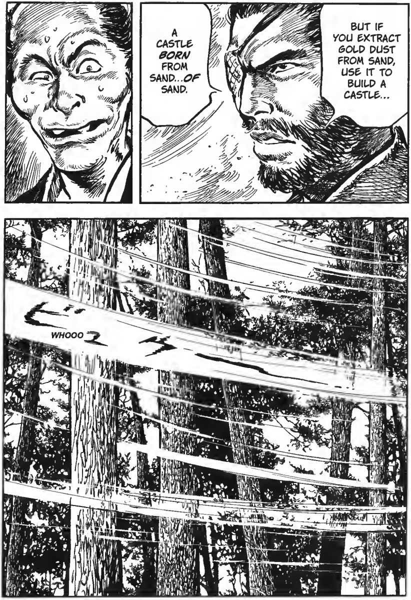
砂の城（二）

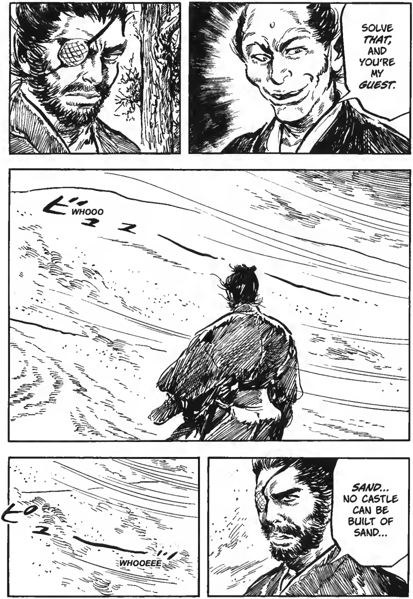
THE TWELFTH
CASTLE
OF SAND
PART 2

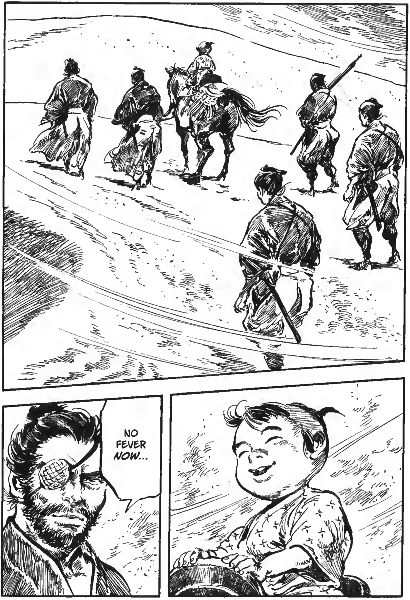

ガー
KREEEEK
バキバキ
BRAAKKK
ヅドドッ
DODOMM

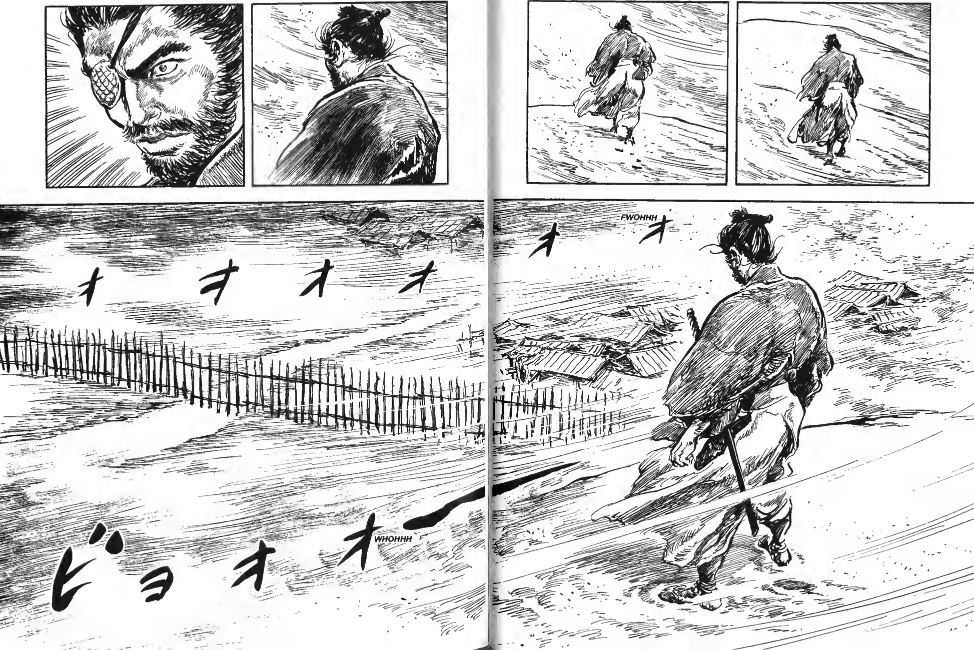


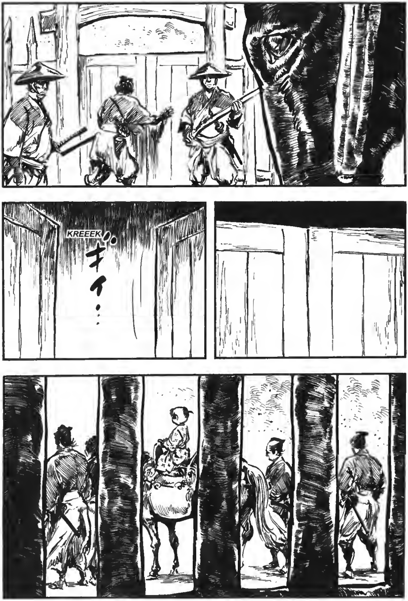

YOUR MASTER IS IN MY HANDS! *FORGET IT NOT!*
KNOW THAT IF YOU ATTACK, HE WILL FALL LIKE THIS GREAT TREE.
WHAT'S A CASTLE OF SAND?!
チーン
CHKK

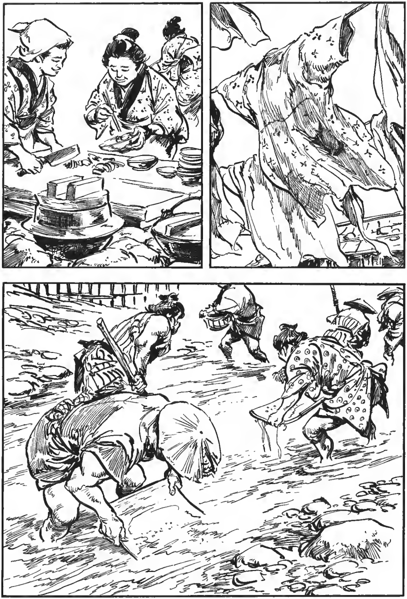

BUT IF YOU EXTRACT GOLD DUST FROM SAND, USE IT TO BUILD A CASTLE...
A CASTLE *BORN* FROM SAND...*OF* SAND.
WHOOO

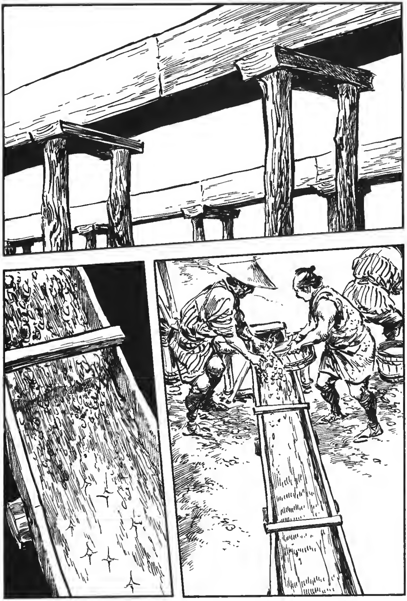

SOLVE *THAT,* AND YOU'RE MY *GUEST.*
WHOOO
SAND... NO CASTLE CAN BE BUILT OF SAND...
WHOOEEE

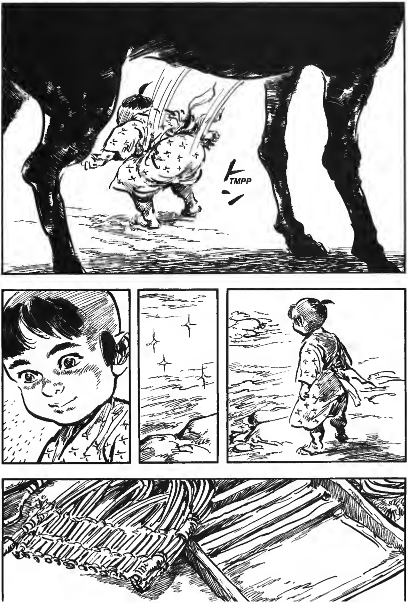

NO FEVER *NOW*...

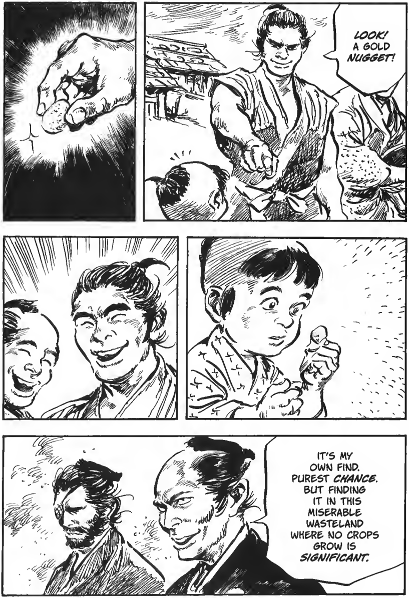

オ オ
FWOHHH
オ ヲ オ オ
ビョオオー
WHOHHH

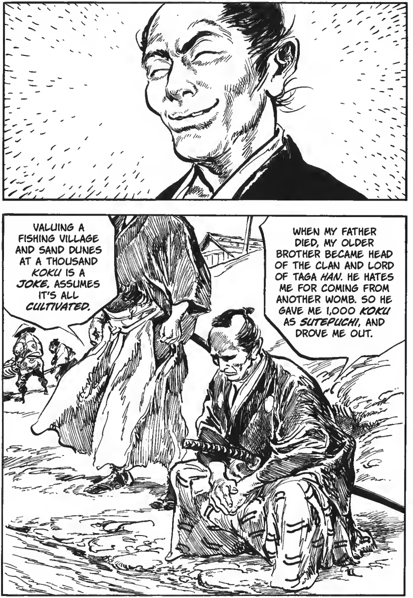

KREEEK
ギィ…

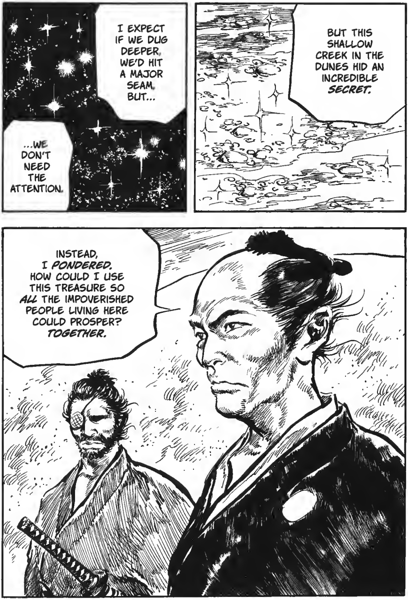





トン
TMPP


LOOK! A GOLD *NUGGET!*
IT'S MY OWN FIND. PUREST *CHANCE.* BUT FINDING IT IN THIS MISERABLE WASTELAND WHERE NO CROPS GROW IS *SIGNIFICANT.*


WHEN MY FATHER DIED, MY OLDER BROTHER BECAME HEAD OF THE CLAN AND LORD OF TAGA *HAN*. HE HATES ME FOR COMING FROM ANOTHER WOMB. SO HE GAVE ME 1,000 *KOKU* AS *SUTEPUCHI*, AND DROVE ME OUT.
VALUING A FISHING VILLAGE AND SAND DUNES AT A THOUSAND *KOKU* IS A *JOKE*. ASSUMES IT'S ALL *CULTIVATED*.

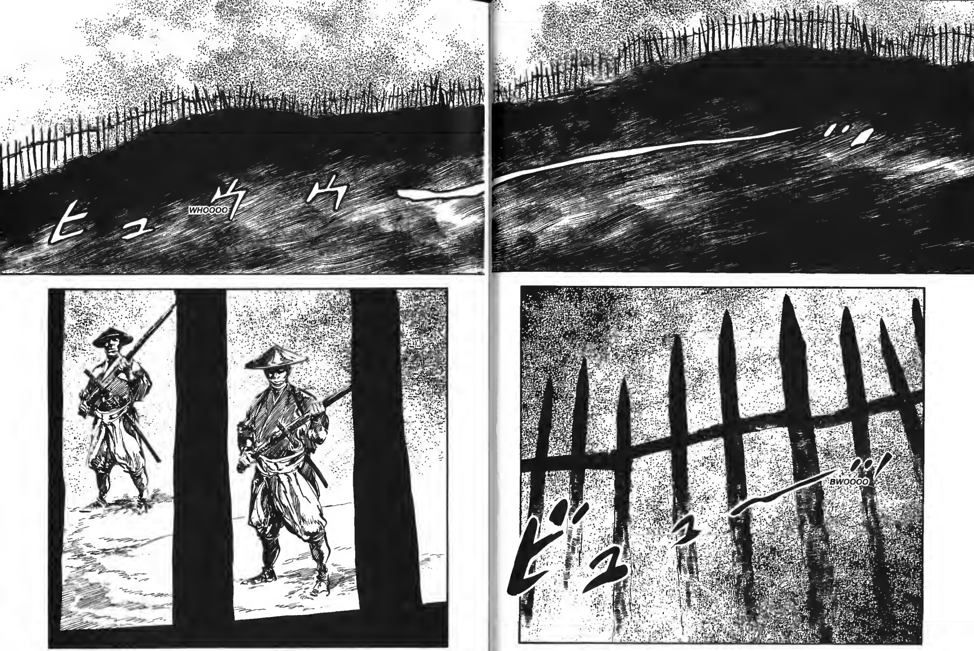

I EXPECT IF WE DUG DEEPER, WE'D HIT A MAJOR SEAM, BUT...
...WE DON'T NEED THE ATTENTION.
BUT THIS SHALLOW CREEK IN THE DUNES HID AN INCREDIBLE *SECRET.*
INSTEAD, I *PONDERED.* HOW COULD I USE THIS TREASURE SO *ALL* THE IMPOVERISHED PEOPLE LIVING HERE COULD PROSPER? *TOGETHER.*

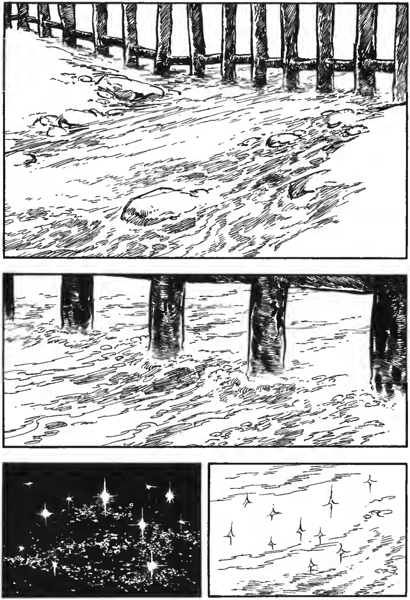
其之十二

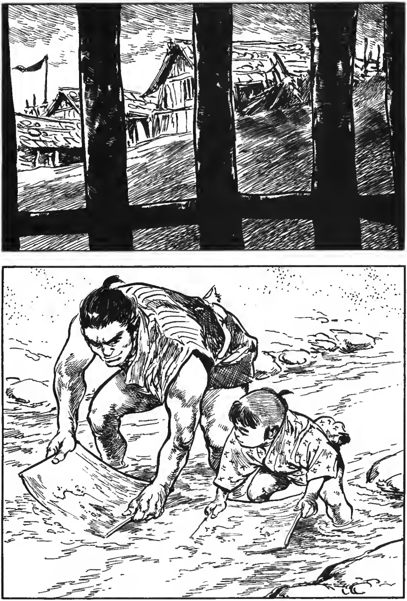
砂の城

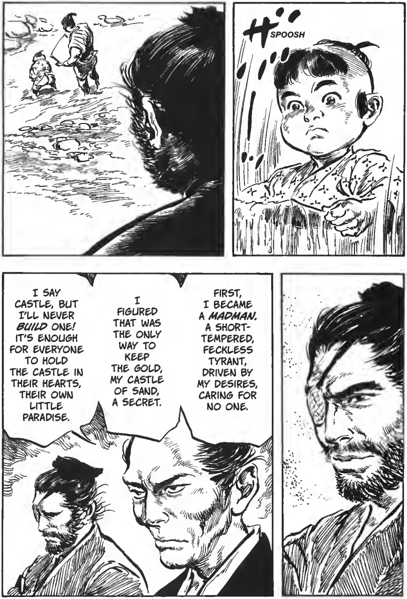
(三)

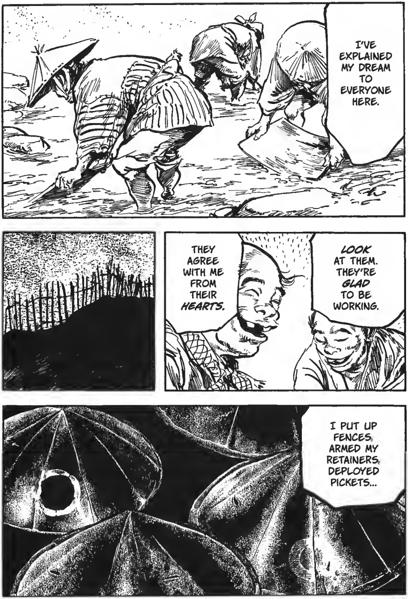
THE TWELFTH CASTLE OF SAND PART 3

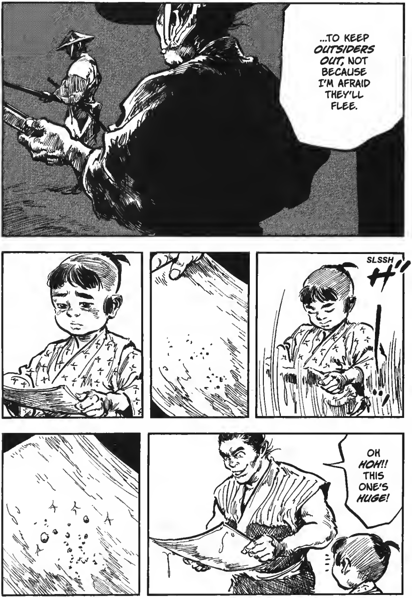

ヒュウウ
WHOOOO
ビュゥー
BWOOOO

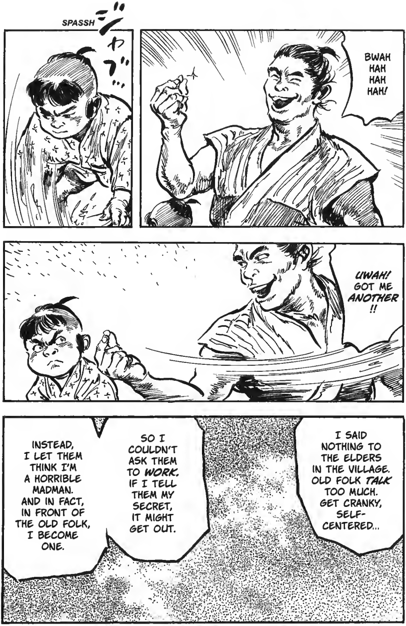


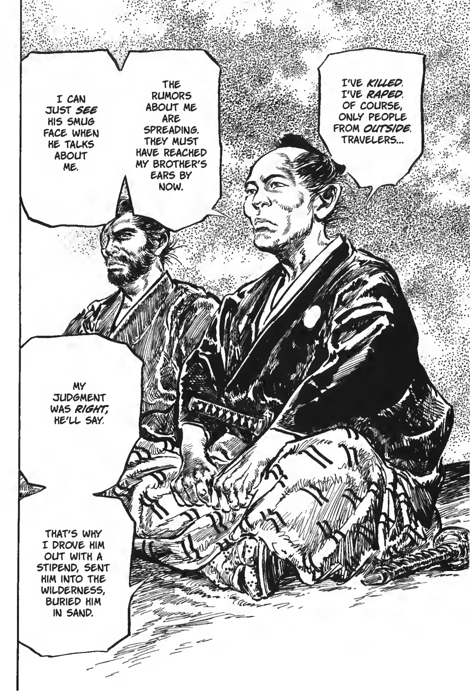


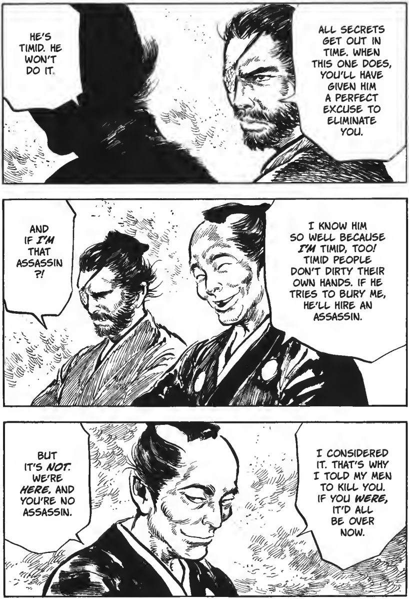

SPOOSH
I SAY CASTLE, BUT I'LL NEVER *BUILD* ONE! IT'S ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE TO HOLD THE CASTLE IN THEIR HEARTS, THEIR OWN LITTLE PARADISE.
I FIGURED THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP THE GOLD, MY CASTLE OF SAND, A SECRET.
FIRST, I BECAME A *MADMAN.* A SHORT-TEMPERED, FECKLESS TYRANT, DRIVEN BY MY DESIRES, CARING FOR NO ONE.

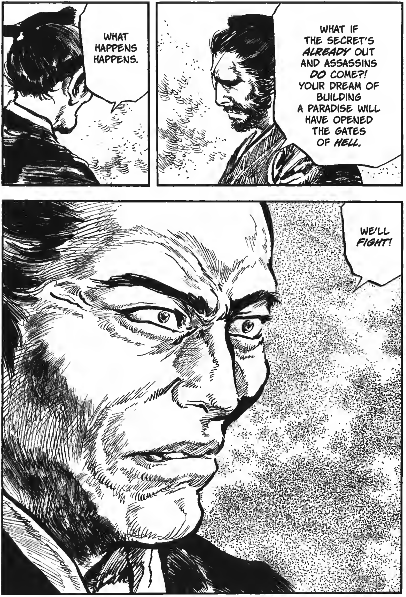

I'VE EXPLAINED MY DREAM TO EVERYONE HERE.
THEY AGREE WITH ME FROM THEIR *HEARTS.*
LOOK AT THEM. THEY'RE *GLAD* TO BE WORKING.
I PUT UP FENCES, ARMED MY RETAINERS, DEPLOYED PICKETS...

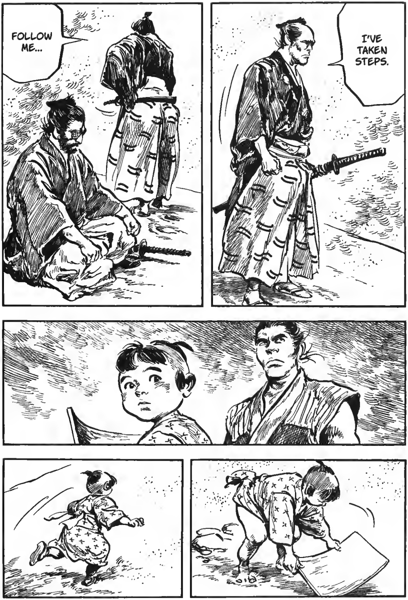

...TO KEEP *OUTSIDERS OUT,* NOT BECAUSE I'M AFRAID THEY'LL FLEE.
SLSSH
OH *HOH!!* THIS ONE'S *HUGE!*

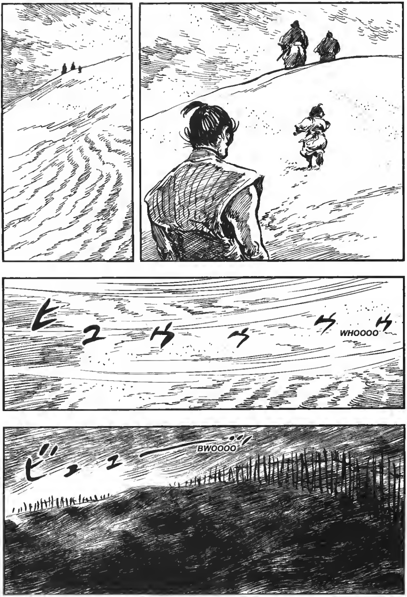

BWAH HAH HAH HAH!
SPASSH
ジャブ…
UWAH! GOT ME *ANOTHER* !!
I SAID NOTHING TO THE ELDERS IN THE VILLAGE. OLD FOLK *TALK* TOO MUCH. GET CRANKY, SELF-CENTERED...
SO I COULDN'T ASK THEM TO *WORK*. IF I TELL THEM MY SECRET, IT MIGHT GET OUT.
INSTEAD, I LET THEM THINK I'M A HORRIBLE MADMAN. AND IN FACT, IN FRONT OF THE OLD FOLK, I BECOME ONE.

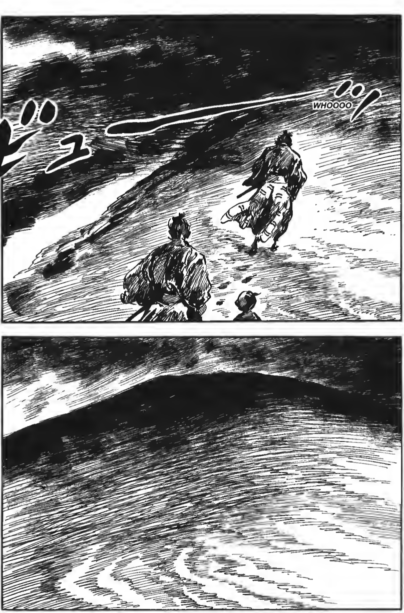

I'VE *KILLED*. I'VE *RAPED*. OF COURSE, ONLY PEOPLE FROM *OUTSIDE*. TRAVELERS...
THE RUMORS ABOUT ME ARE SPREADING. THEY MUST HAVE REACHED MY BROTHER'S EARS BY NOW.
I CAN JUST *SEE* HIS SMUG FACE WHEN HE TALKS ABOUT ME.
MY JUDGMENT WAS *RIGHT*, HE'LL SAY.
THAT'S WHY I DROVE HIM OUT WITH A STIPEND, SENT HIM INTO THE WILDERNESS, BURIED HIM IN SAND.

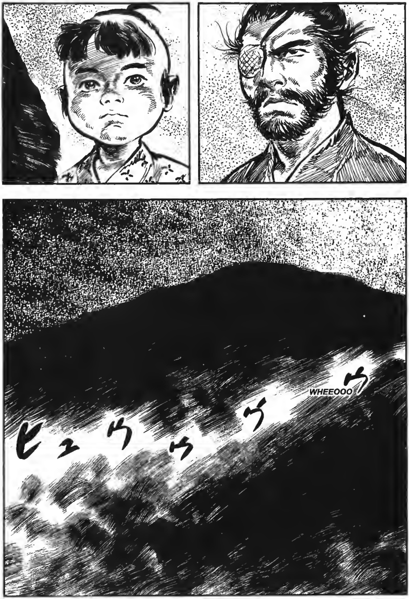

ALL SECRETS GET OUT IN TIME. WHEN THIS ONE DOES, YOU'LL HAVE GIVEN HIM A PERFECT EXCUSE TO ELIMINATE YOU.
HE'S TIMID. HE WON'T DO IT.
I KNOW HIM SO WELL BECAUSE *I'M* TIMID, TOO! TIMID PEOPLE DON'T DIRTY THEIR OWN HANDS. IF HE TRIES TO BURY ME, HE'LL HIRE AN ASSASSIN.
AND IF *I'M* THAT ASSASSIN ?!
I CONSIDERED IT. THAT'S WHY I TOLD MY MEN TO KILL YOU. IF YOU *WERE,* IT'D ALL BE OVER NOW.
BUT IT'S *NOT.* WE'RE *HERE.* AND YOU'RE NO ASSASSIN.


WHAT HAPPENS HAPPENS.
WHAT IF THE SECRET'S *ALREADY* OUT AND ASSASSINS *DO* COME?! YOUR DREAM OF BUILDING A PARADISE WILL HAVE OPENED THE GATES OF *HELL.*
WE'LL *FIGHT!*


FOLLOW ME...
I'VE TAKEN STEPS.


ヒュウウウウ
WHOOOO
ビュエエー
BWOOOO


WHOOOO
ビュ


ヒュウウウウ
WHEEOOO

其之十二

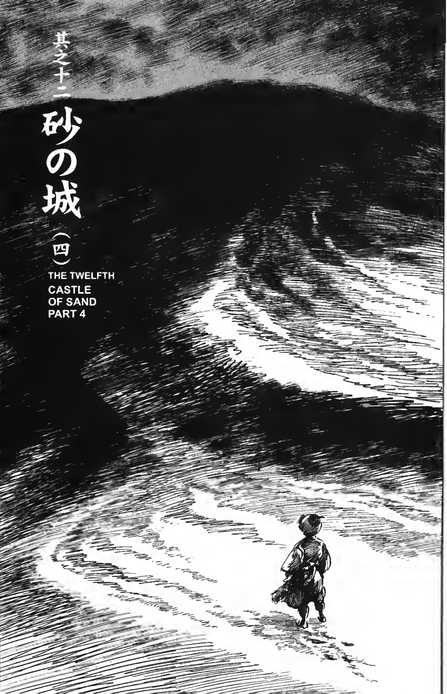
砂の城

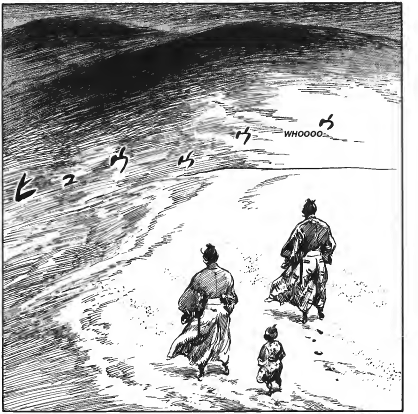
（四）

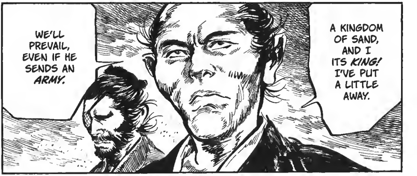
THE TWELFTH

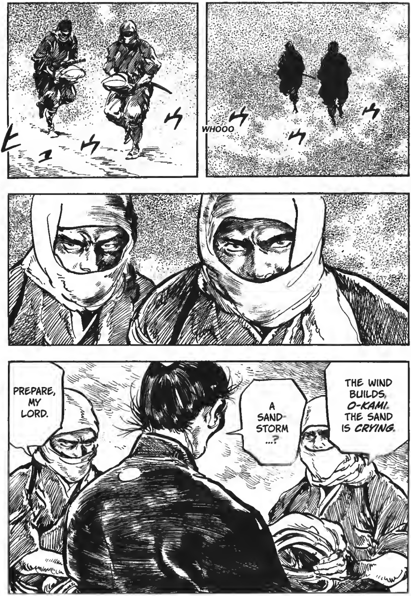
CASTLE OF SAND

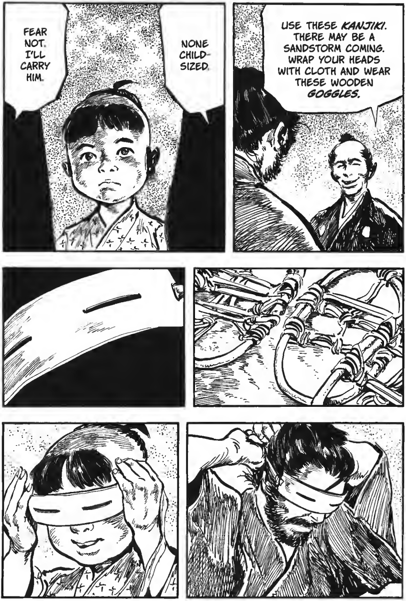
PART 4

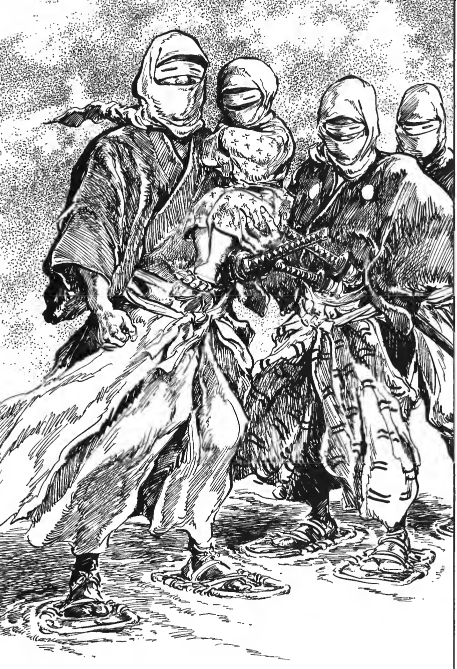


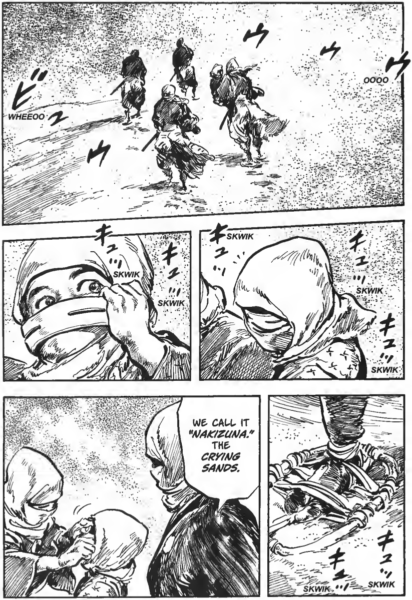

ヒュウウウウ
WHOOOO


A KINGDOM OF SAND, AND I ITS *KING!* I'VE PUT A LITTLE AWAY.
WE'LL PREVAIL, EVEN IF HE SENDS AN *ARMY.*


WHOOO
ウ ウ ウ
ヒ ュ ウ ウ
THE WIND BUILDS, *O-KAMI*. THE SAND IS *CRYING*.
A SANDSTORM ...?
PREPARE, MY LORD.


NONE CHILD-SIZED.
FEAR NOT. I'LL CARRY HIM.
USE THESE *KANJIKI*. THERE MAY BE A SANDSTORM COMING. WRAP YOUR HEADS WITH CLOTH AND WEAR THESE WOODEN *GOGGLES*.




ビュ
WHEEOO
ウ
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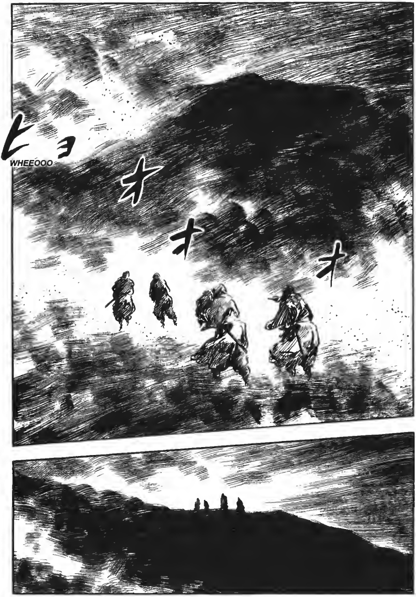
OOOO
キュッ
SKWIK
キュッ
SKWIK
キュッ
SKWIK
キュッ
SKWIK
キュッ
SKWIK
WE CALL IT *"NAKIZUNA."* THE *CRYING SANDS.*
キュッ
SKWIK
キュッ
SKWIK


ヒョ
WHEEOOO
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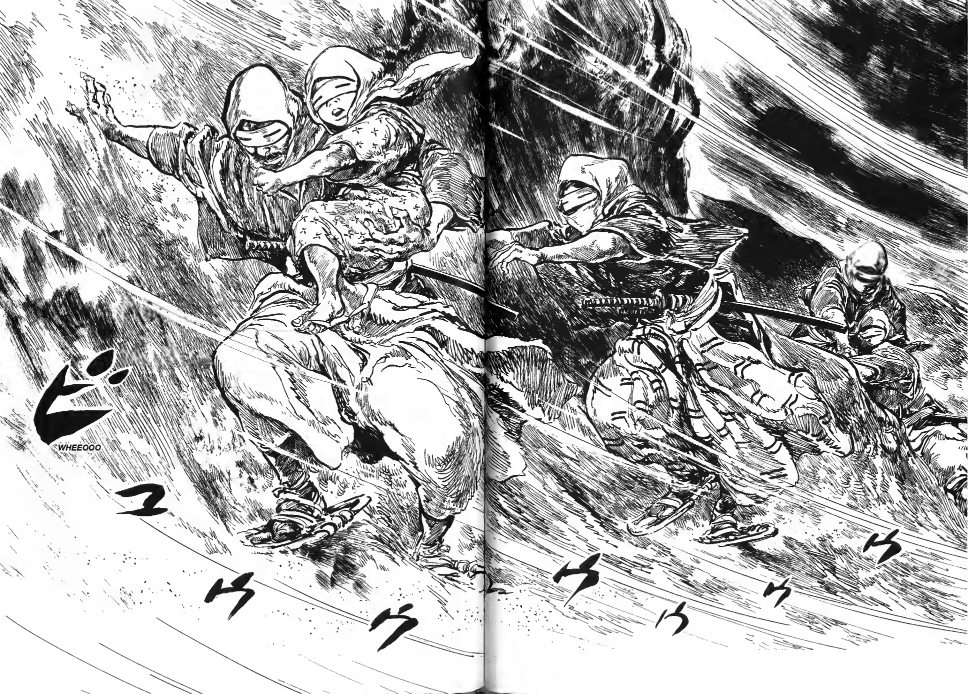
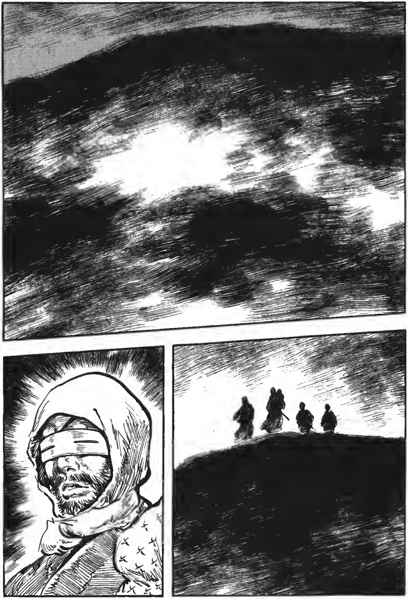
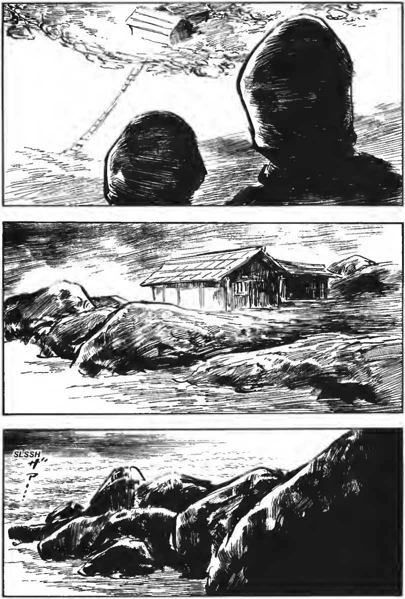
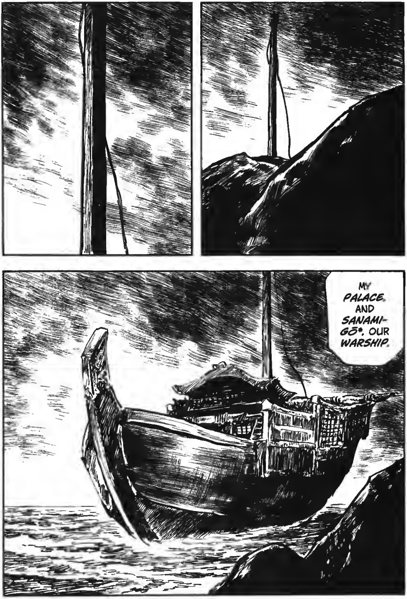

ビュウウウウウウ
WHEEOOO

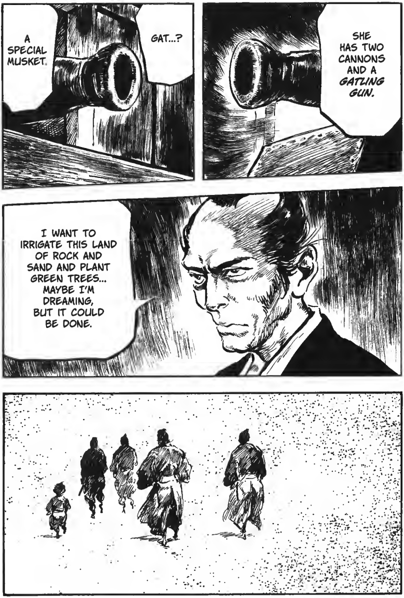


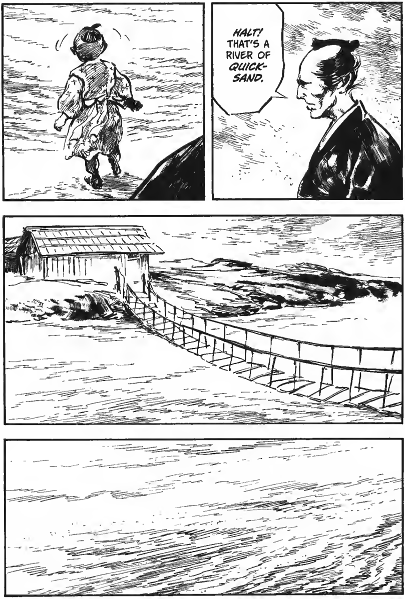

SLSSH
ザァ…

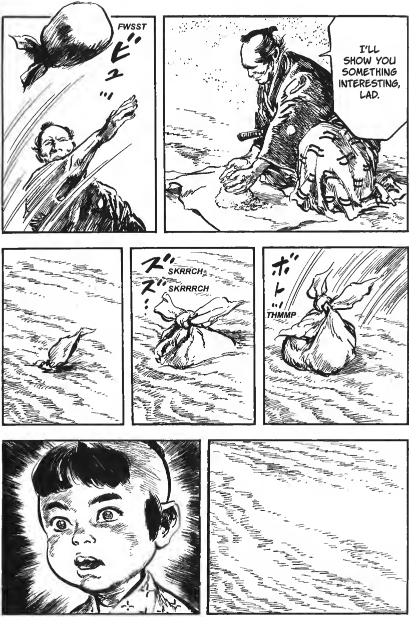
"

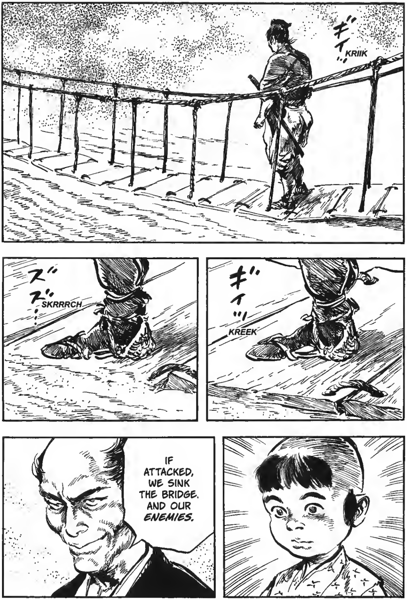

MY PALACE. AND SANAMI-GŌ*, OUR WARSHIP.

*SEE FOOTNOTES


A SPECIAL MUSKET.
GAT...?
SHE HAS TWO CANNONS AND A *GATLING GUN.*
I WANT TO IRRIGATE THIS LAND OF ROCK AND SAND AND PLANT GREEN TREES... MAYBE I'M DREAMING, BUT IT COULD BE DONE.

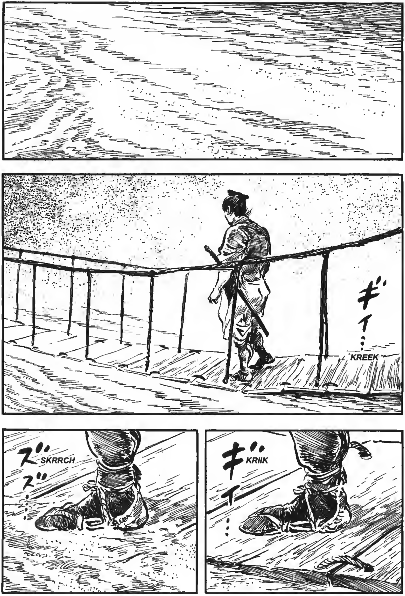

HALT! THAT'S A RIVER OF QUICKSAND.

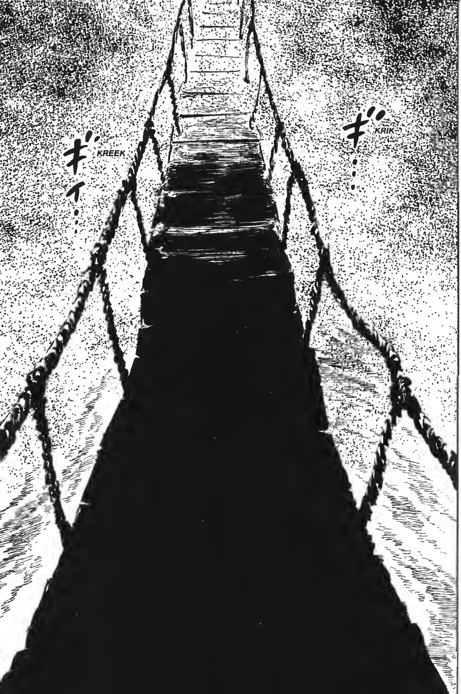

I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING, LAD.
FWSST
ビュッ
THMMP
ボトッ
SKRRCH
SKRRRCH
ズズッ

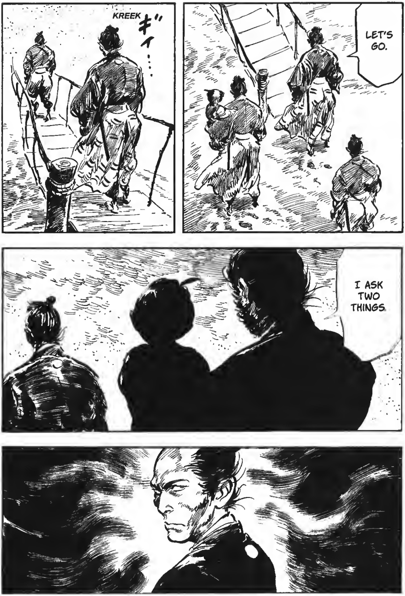

ギイ..
KRIIK
ズズ...
SKRRRCH
ギイッ
KREEK
IF ATTACKED, WE SINK THE BRIDGE. AND OUR *ENEMIES.*

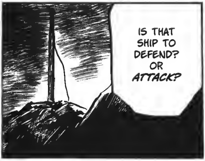
其之十二 砂の城（五）

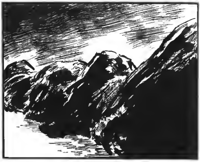
THE TWELFTH
CASTLE OF SAND
PART 5

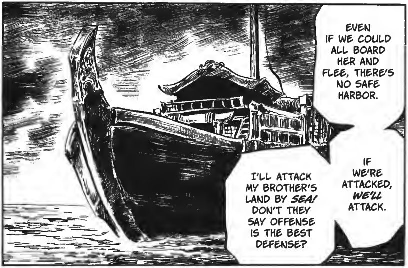

ギィ…
KREEK
ギィ…
KRIIK
ズズ…
SKRRCH

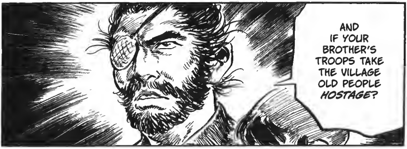

ギ…
KRIK
ギイ…
KREEK

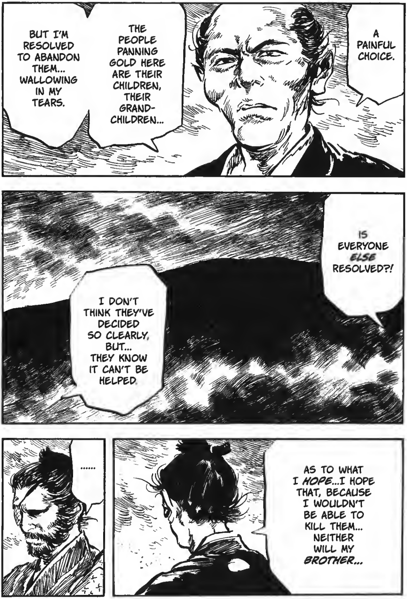

KREEK
ギイ…
LET'S GO.
I ASK TWO THINGS.

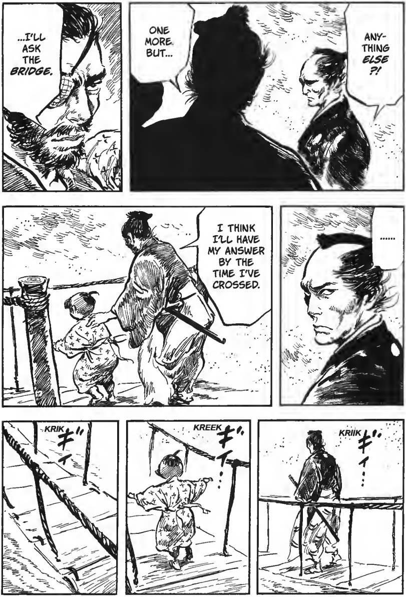

IS THAT SHIP TO DEFEND? OR *ATTACK?*

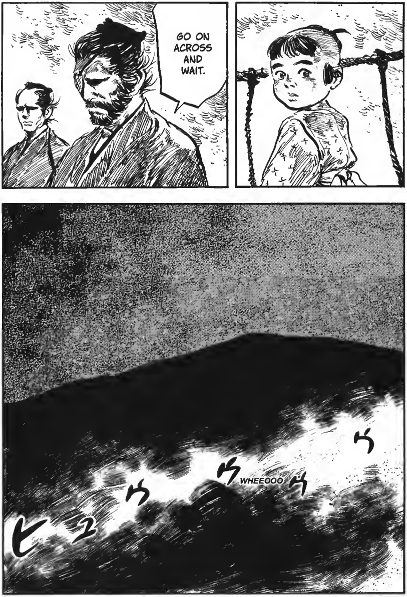


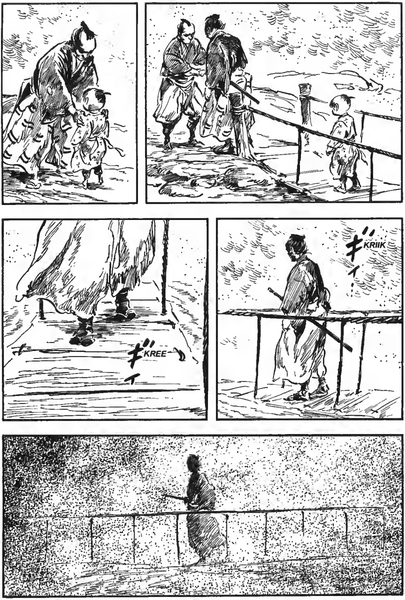

EVEN IF WE COULD ALL BOARD HER AND FLEE, THERE'S NO SAFE HARBOR.
IF WE'RE ATTACKED, *WE'LL* ATTACK.
I'LL ATTACK MY BROTHER'S LAND BY *SEA!* DON'T THEY SAY OFFENSE IS THE BEST DEFENSE?

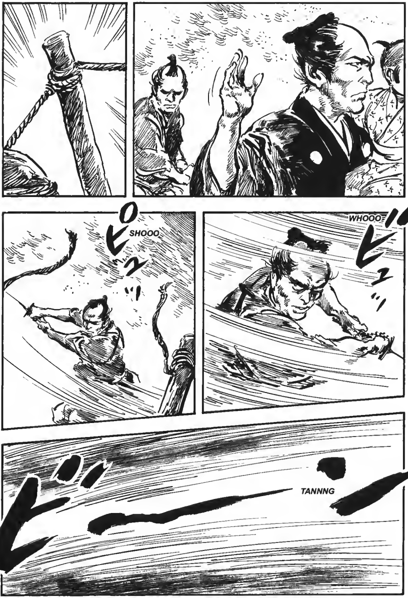

AND IF YOUR BROTHER'S TROOPS TAKE THE VILLAGE OLD PEOPLE *HOSTAGE?*

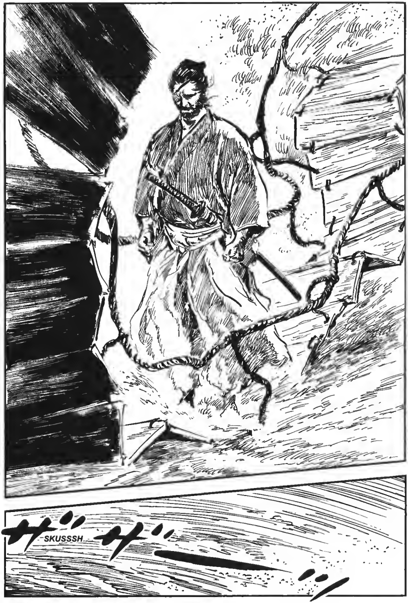

A PAINFUL CHOICE.
THE PEOPLE PANNING GOLD HERE ARE THEIR CHILDREN, THEIR GRANDCHILDREN...
BUT I'M RESOLVED TO ABANDON THEM... WALLOWING IN MY TEARS.
IS EVERYONE *ELSE* RESOLVED?!
I DON'T THINK THEY'VE DECIDED SO CLEARLY, BUT... THEY KNOW IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
AS TO WHAT I *HOPE*...I HOPE THAT, BECAUSE I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KILL THEM... NEITHER WILL MY *BROTHER*...
......

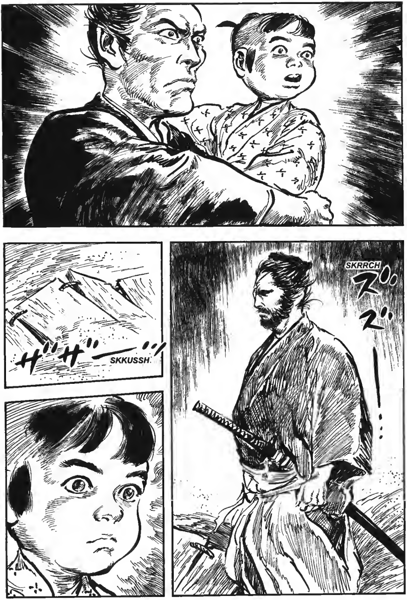

ANY-THING *ELSE* ?!
ONE MORE. BUT...
...I'LL ASK THE *BRIDGE.*
I THINK I'LL HAVE MY ANSWER BY THE TIME I'VE CROSSED.
......
KRIK ギィ
KREEK ギィ…
KRIIK ギィ…

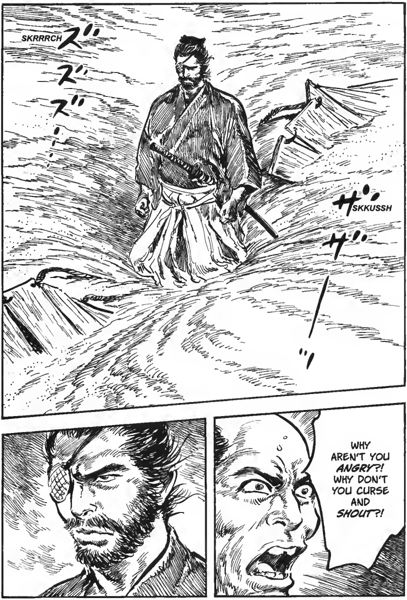

GO ON ACROSS AND WAIT.
ヒュウウウウ
WHEEOOO

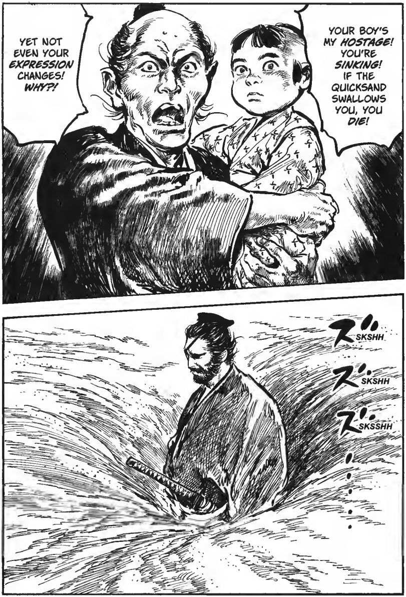

ギィ
KRIIK
ギィ
KREE

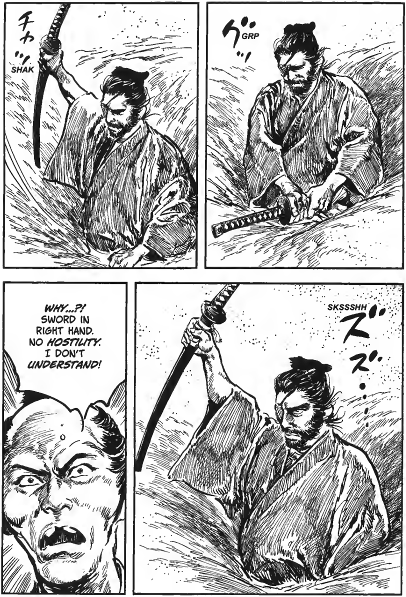

ビュッ
WHOOO
ピュッ
SHOOO
ビーン
TANNNG

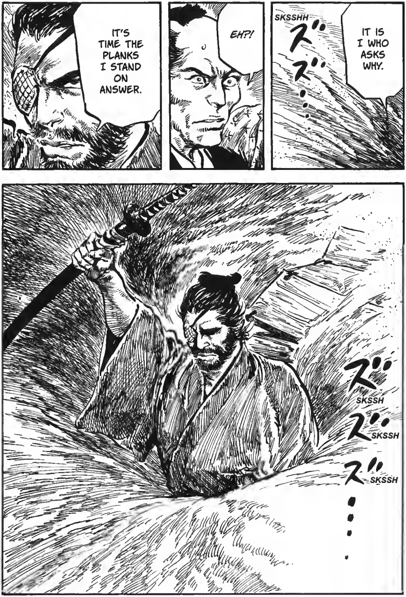

ザザーッ
SKUSSSH


ザザー!!
SKKUSSH
SKRRCH
ズズ!…


ザッ SKKUSSH ザッ
ズッ SKRRRCH ズッ ズッ
WHY AREN'T YOU *ANGRY*?! WHY DON'T YOU CURSE AND *SHOUT*?!


YOUR BOY'S MY *HOSTAGE!* YOU'RE *SINKING!* IF THE QUICKSAND SWALLOWS YOU, YOU *DIE!*
YET NOT EVEN YOUR *EXPRESSION* CHANGES! *WHY?!*
SKSHH
SKSHH
SKSSHH

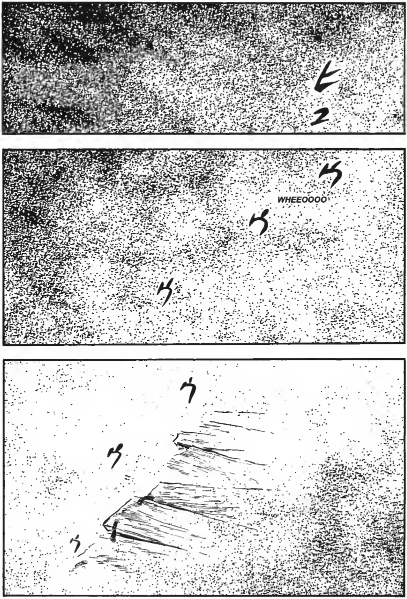

グッ
GRP
チャッ
SHAK
ズズ・・・
SKSSSHH
WHY...?! SWORD IN RIGHT HAND. NO HOSTILITY. I DON'T UNDERSTAND!


IT'S TIME THE PLANKS I STAND ON ANSWER.
EH?!
SKSSHH
ズ
ズ
IT IS I WHO ASKS WHY.
ズ
SKSSH
ズ
SKSSH
ズ
SKSSH

其之十二

砂の城（六）

THE TWELFTH
CASTLE OF SAND
PART 6


ヒュ
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WHEEOOOO
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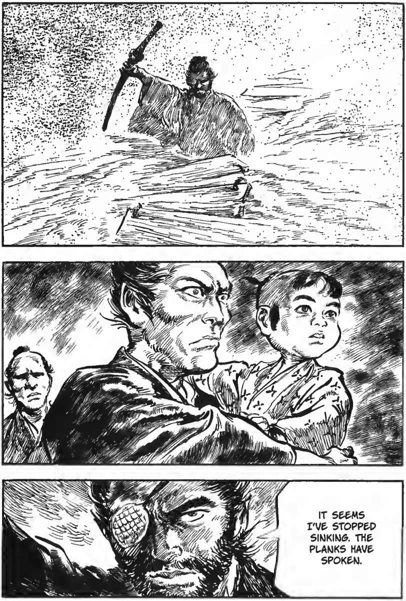
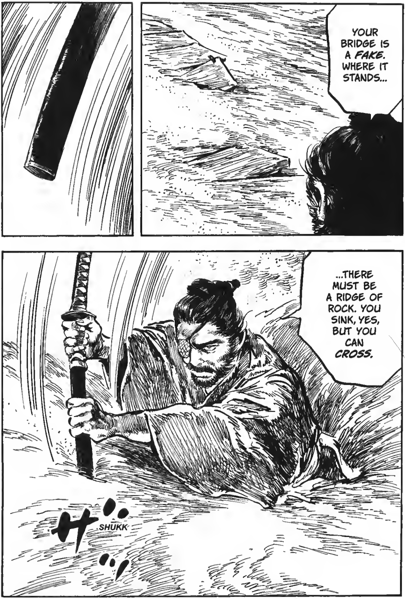
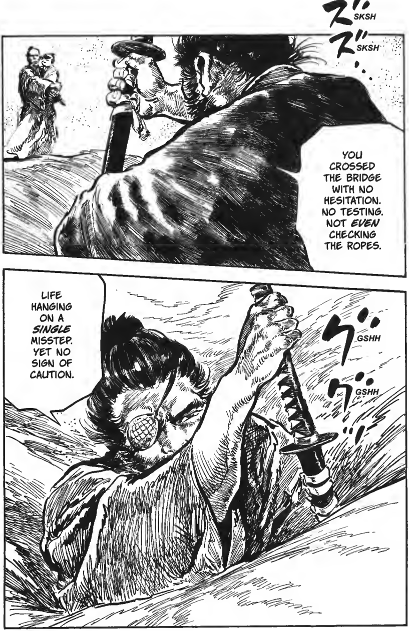
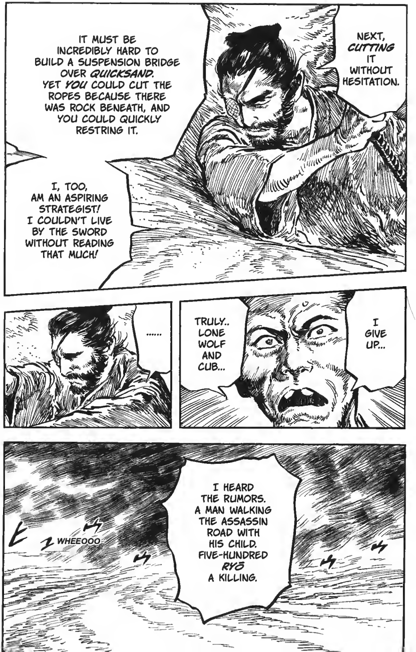
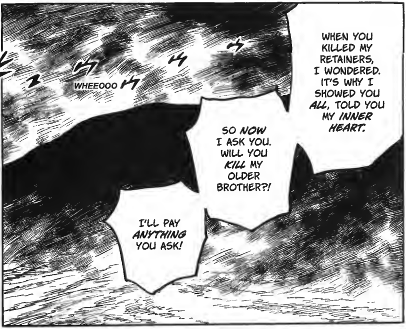
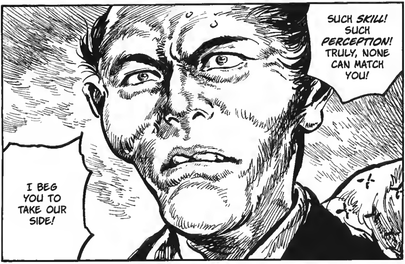

IT SEEMS I'VE STOPPED SINKING. THE PLANKS HAVE SPOKEN.

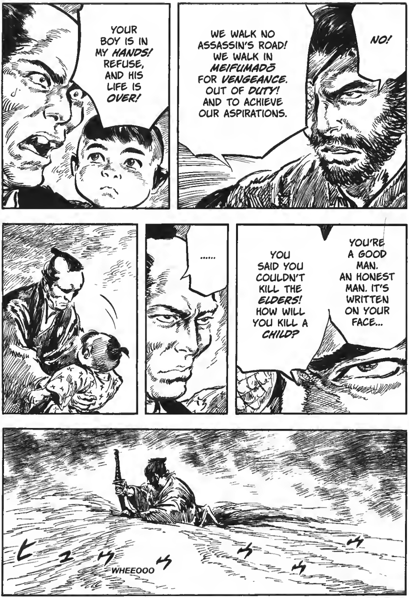

YOUR BRIDGE IS A *FAKE*. WHERE IT STANDS...
...THERE MUST BE A RIDGE OF ROCK. YOU SINK, YES, BUT YOU CAN *CROSS.*
SHUKK

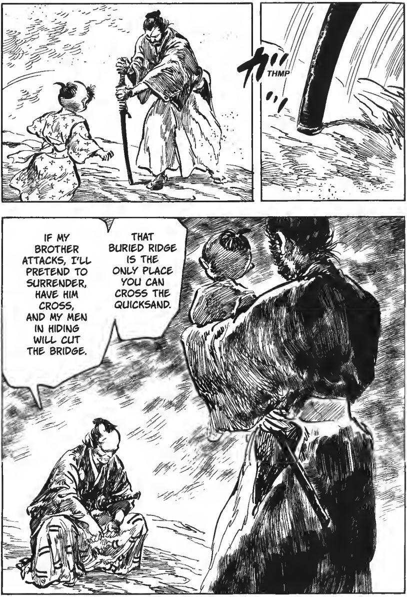

ズ SKSH
ズ SKSH
YOU CROSSED THE BRIDGE WITH NO HESITATION. NO TESTING. NOT *EVEN* CHECKING THE ROPES.
グ GSHH
グ GSHH
LIFE HANGING ON A *SINGLE* MISSTEP. YET NO SIGN OF CAUTION.

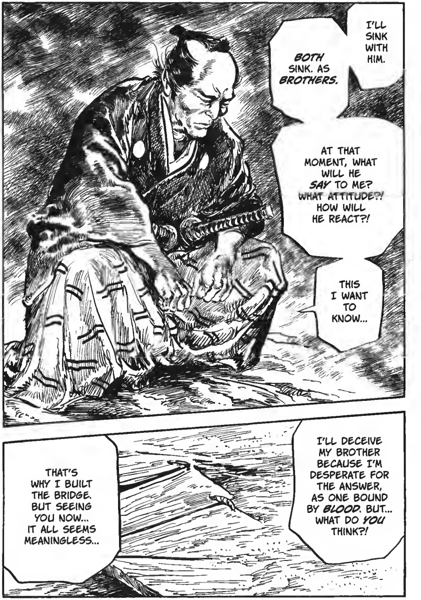

IT MUST BE INCREDIBLY HARD TO BUILD A SUSPENSION BRIDGE OVER *QUICKSAND*. YET *YOU* COULD CUT THE ROPES BECAUSE THERE WAS ROCK BENEATH, AND YOU COULD QUICKLY RESTRING IT.
NEXT, *CUTTING* IT WITHOUT HESITATION.
I, TOO, AM AN ASPIRING STRATEGIST! I COULDN'T LIVE BY THE SWORD WITHOUT READING THAT MUCH!
......
TRULY.. LONE WOLF AND CUB...
I GIVE UP...
WHEEOOO
I HEARD THE RUMORS. A MAN WALKING THE ASSASSIN ROAD WITH HIS CHILD. FIVE-HUNDRED *RYŌ* A KILLING.

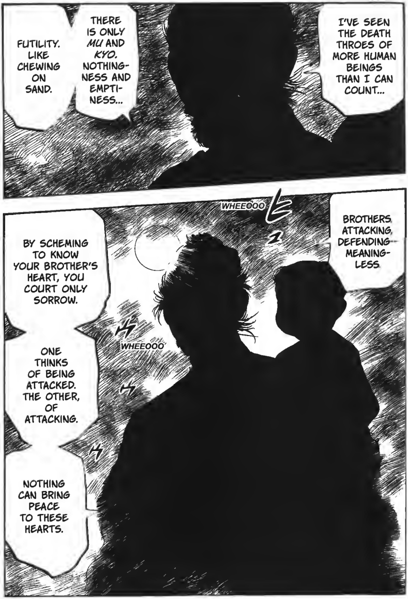

WHEN YOU KILLED MY RETAINERS, I WONDERED. IT'S WHY I SHOWED YOU *ALL*, TOLD YOU MY *INNER HEART.*
SO *NOW* I ASK YOU. WILL YOU *KILL* MY OLDER BROTHER?!
I'LL PAY *ANYTHING* YOU ASK!
WHEEOOO

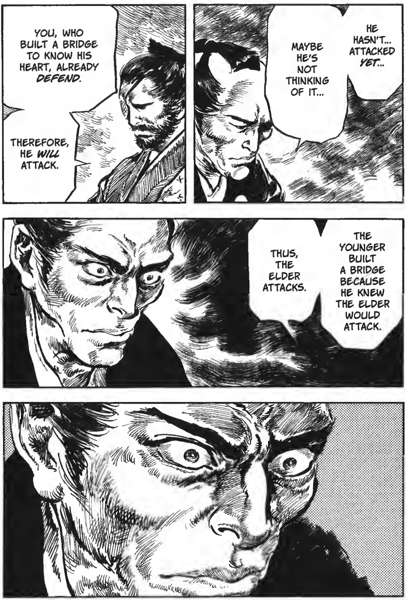

SUCH *SKILL!* SUCH *PERCEPTION!* TRULY, NONE CAN MATCH YOU!
I BEG YOU TO TAKE OUR SIDE!

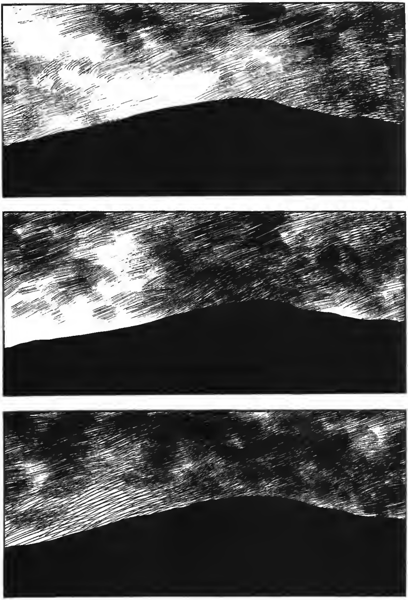

YOUR BOY IS IN MY *HANDS!* REFUSE, AND HIS LIFE IS *OVER!*
NO!
WE WALK NO ASSASSIN'S ROAD! WE WALK IN *MEIFUMADŌ* FOR *VENGEANCE.* OUT OF *DUTY!* AND TO ACHIEVE OUR ASPIRATIONS.
......
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN. AN HONEST MAN. IT'S WRITTEN ON YOUR FACE...
YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T KILL THE *ELDERS!* HOW WILL YOU KILL A *CHILD?*
WHEEOOO

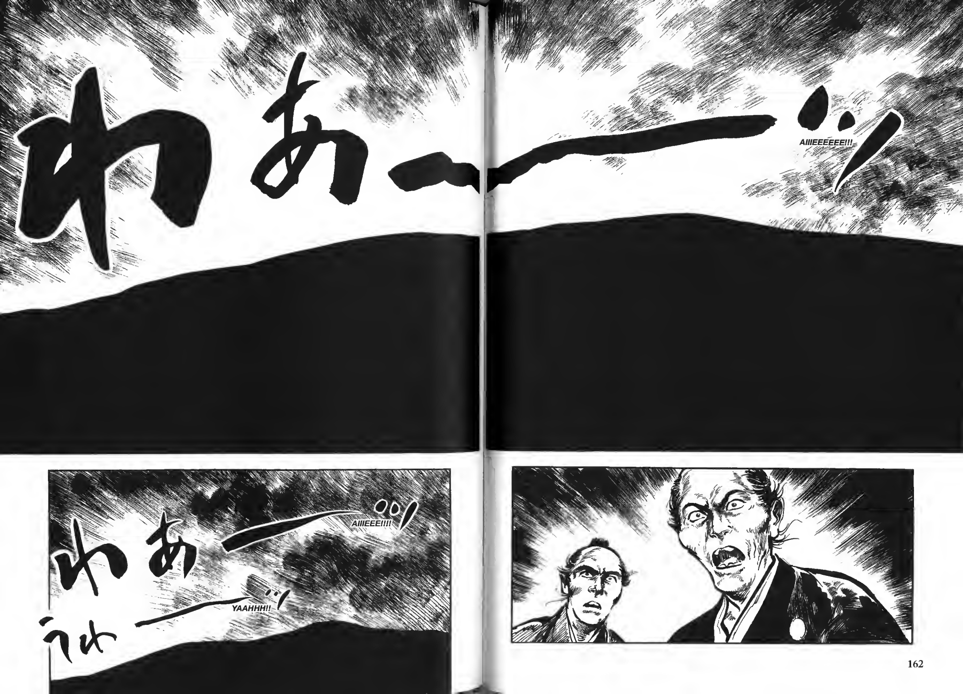

ガ''
THMP
THAT BURIED RIDGE IS THE ONLY PLACE YOU CAN CROSS THE QUICKSAND.
IF MY BROTHER ATTACKS, I'LL PRETEND TO SURRENDER, HAVE HIM CROSS, AND MY MEN IN HIDING WILL CUT THE BRIDGE.

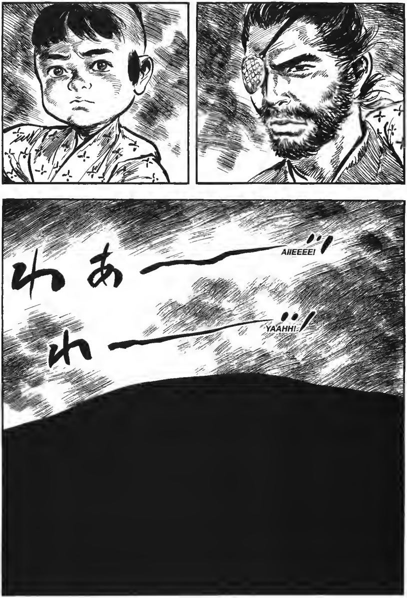

I'LL SINK WITH HIM.
BOTH SINK. AS *BROTHERS.*
AT THAT MOMENT, WHAT WILL HE *SAY* TO ME? WHAT ATTITUDE?! HOW WILL HE REACT?!
THIS I WANT TO KNOW...
I'LL DECEIVE MY BROTHER BECAUSE I'M DESPERATE FOR THE ANSWER, AS ONE BOUND BY *BLOOD*. BUT... WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?!
THAT'S WHY I BUILT THE BRIDGE. BUT SEEING YOU NOW... IT ALL SEEMS MEANINGLESS...


I'VE SEEN THE DEATH THROES OF MORE HUMAN BEINGS THAN I CAN COUNT...
THERE IS ONLY *MU* AND *KYO*. NOTHINGNESS AND EMPTINESS...
FUTILITY. LIKE CHEWING ON SAND.
WHEEOOO
BROTHERS ATTACKING, DEFENDING-- MEANINGLESS.
BY SCHEMING TO KNOW YOUR BROTHER'S HEART, YOU COURT ONLY SORROW.
WHEEOOO
ONE THINKS OF BEING ATTACKED. THE OTHER, OF ATTACKING.
NOTHING CAN BRING PEACE TO THESE HEARTS.


YOU, WHO BUILT A BRIDGE TO KNOW HIS HEART, ALREADY *DEFEND*.
THEREFORE, HE *WILL* ATTACK.
HE HASN'T... ATTACKED *YET*...
MAYBE HE'S NOT THINKING OF IT...
THE YOUNGER BUILT A BRIDGE BECAUSE HE KNEW THE ELDER WOULD ATTACK.
THUS, THE ELDER ATTACKS.

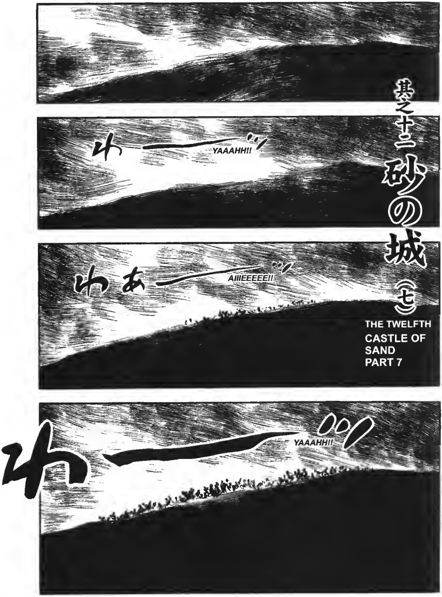


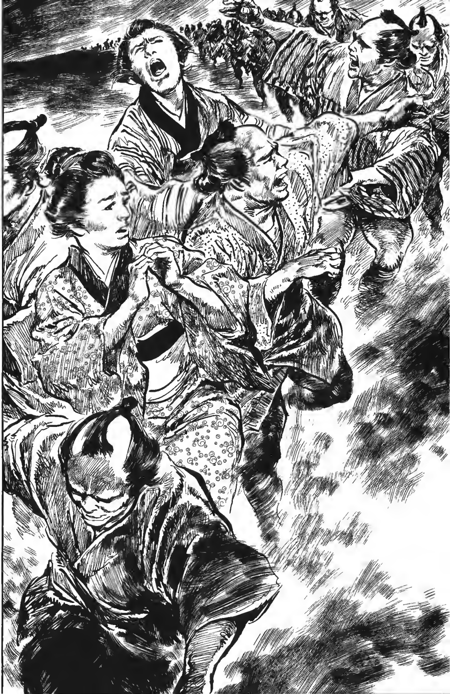

わあーーッ
AIIIEEEEEE!!!
わあーッ
AIIIEEE!!!!
うわーッ
YAAHHH!!

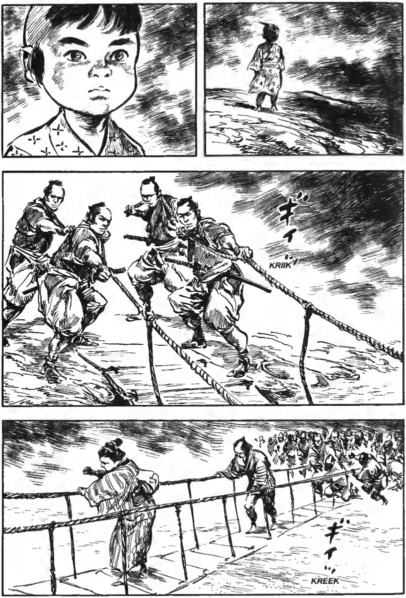

わあ——ッ!
AIIEEEE!
わ——ッ!
YAAHH!

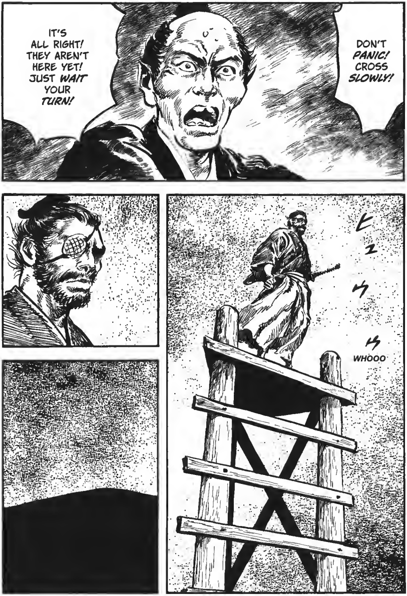
其之十二 砂の城（七）

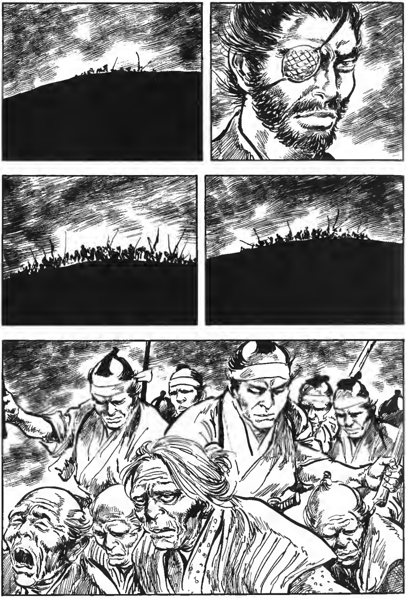
THE TWELFTH
CASTLE OF SAND
PART 7

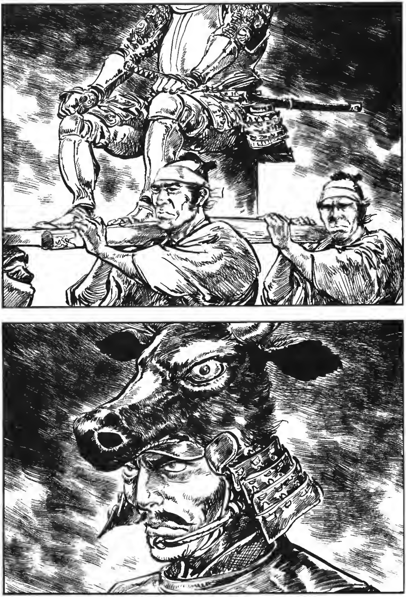

わーーッ
YAAAHH!!
わあーーッ
AIIIEEEEE!!
わーーッ
YAAAHH!!

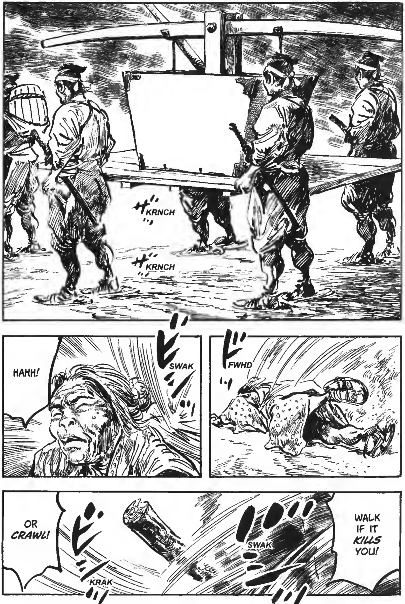


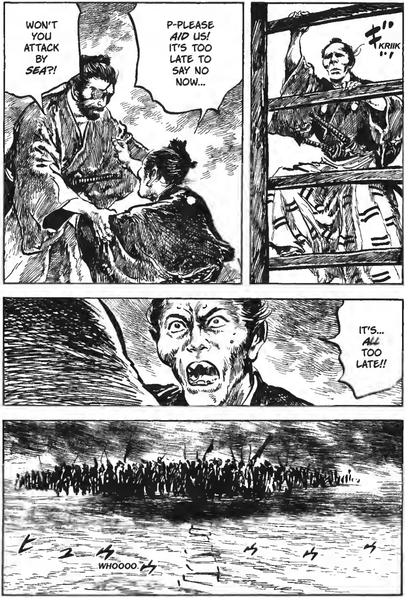

ギイ…
KRIIK
?
ギイ…
KREEK

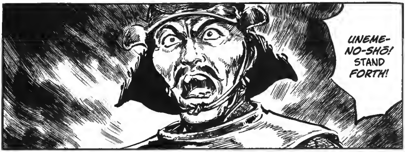

DON'T *PANIC!* CROSS *SLOWLY!*
IT'S ALL RIGHT! THEY AREN'T HERE YET! JUST *WAIT* YOUR *TURN!*
ヒュウウ
WHOOO

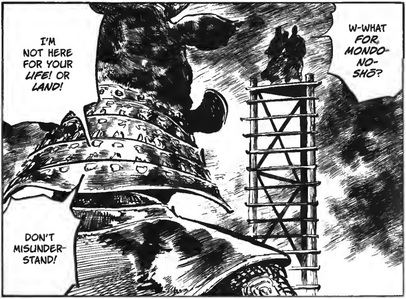


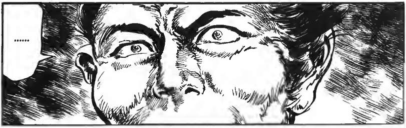


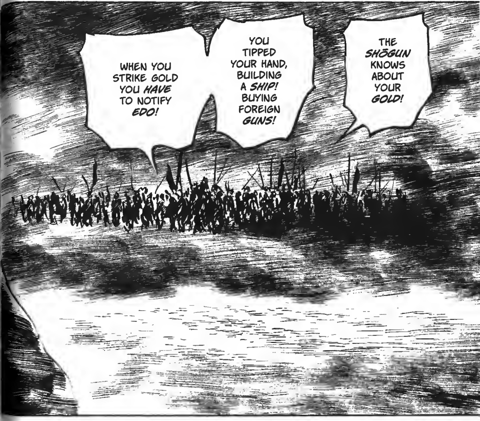

KRNCH
KRNCH
FWHD
SWAK
HAHH!
WALK IF IT *KILLS* YOU!
SWAK
KRAK
OR *CRAWL!*

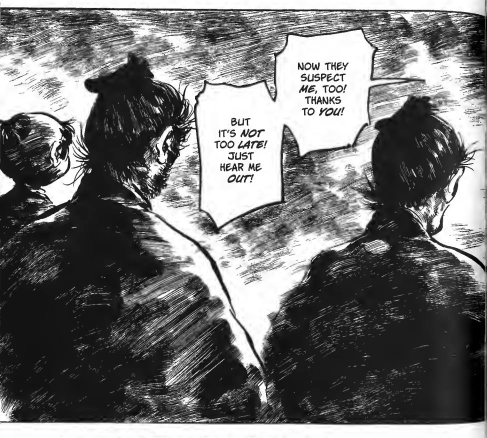

KRIIK
P-PLEASE AID US! IT'S TOO LATE TO SAY NO NOW...
WON'T YOU ATTACK BY SEA?!
IT'S... ALL TOO LATE!!
WHOOOO

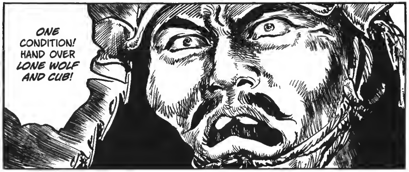

UNEME-NO-SHŌ! STAND FORTH!

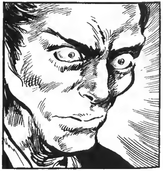

W-WHAT FOR, MONDO-NO-SHŌ?
I'M NOT HERE FOR YOUR LIFE! OR LAND!
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND!

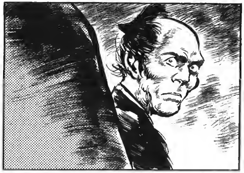

......

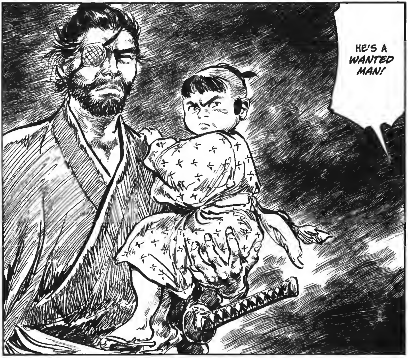

THE *SHŌGUN* KNOWS ABOUT YOUR *GOLD!*
YOU TIPPED YOUR HAND, BUILDING A *SHIP!* BUYING FOREIGN *GUNS!*
WHEN YOU STRIKE GOLD YOU *HAVE* TO NOTIFY *EDO!*

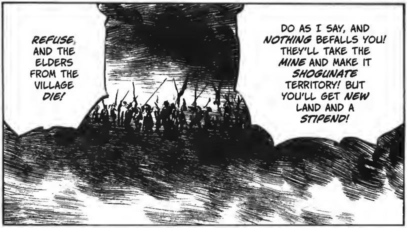

NOW THEY SUSPECT *ME*, TOO! THANKS TO *YOU!*
BUT IT'S *NOT* TOO *LATE!* JUST HEAR ME *OUT!*

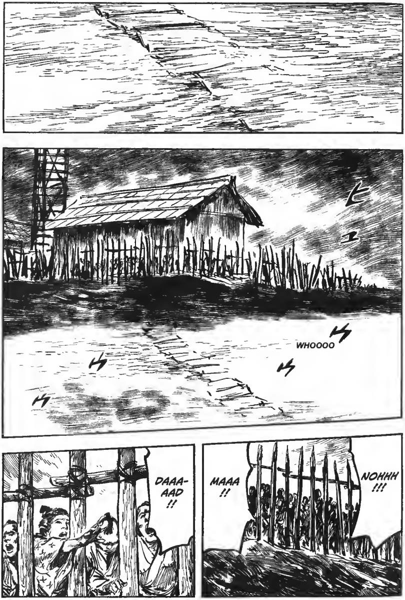

ONE CONDITION! HAND OVER *LONE WOLF AND CUB!*

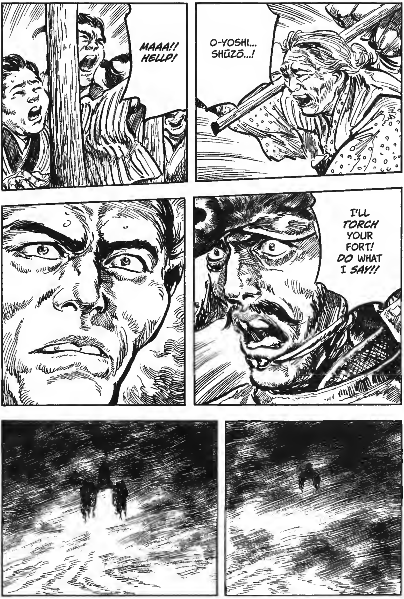


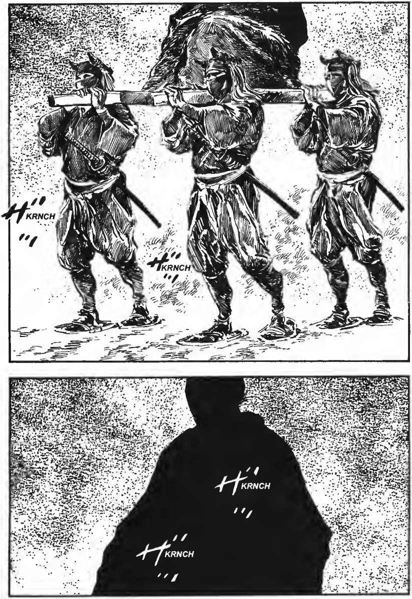


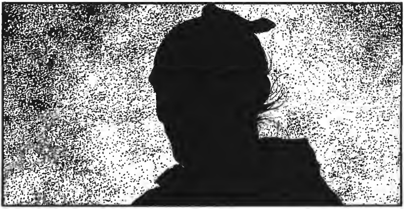

HE'S A *WANTED* *MAN!*

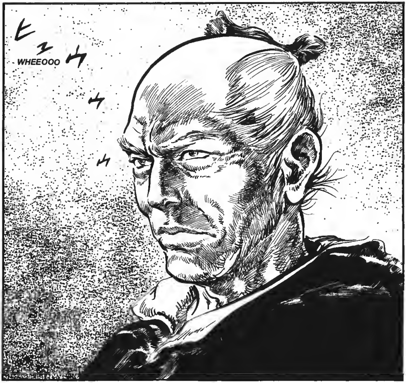

DO AS I SAY, AND *NOTHING* BEFALLS YOU! THEY'LL TAKE THE *MINE* AND MAKE IT *SHOGUNATE* TERRITORY! BUT YOU'LL GET *NEW* LAND AND A *STIPEND!*
REFUSE, AND THE ELDERS FROM THE VILLAGE *DIE!*


ヒュ
WHOOOO
DAAA-AAD !!
MAAA !!
NOHHH !!!


MAAA!! HELLP!
O-YOSHI... SHŪZŌ...!
I'LL TORCH YOUR FORT! DO WHAT I SAY!!


KRNCH
KRNCH
KRNCH
KRNCH




ヒュウウウ
WHEEOOO

其之十二

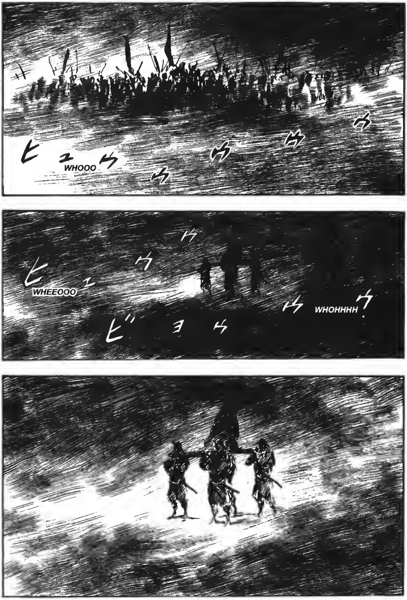
砂の城

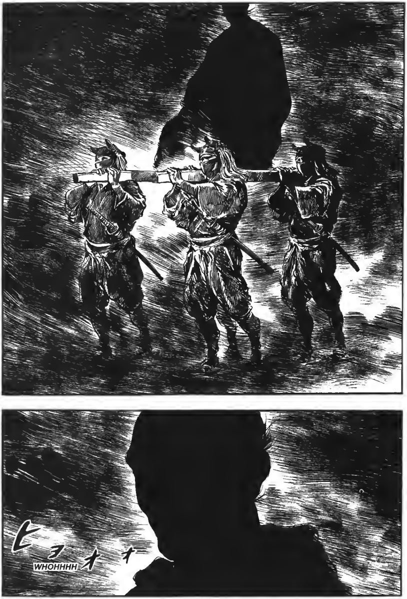
（八）

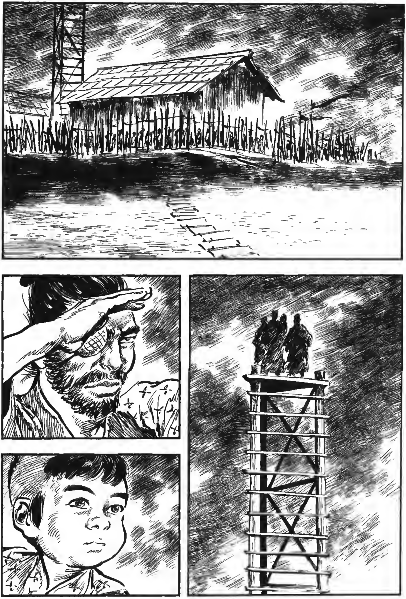
THE TWELFTH

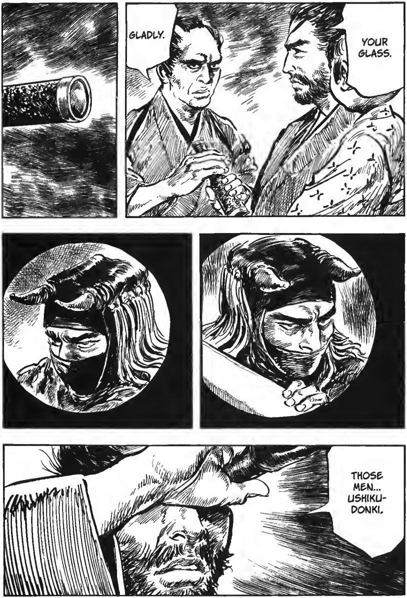
CASTLE OF SAND

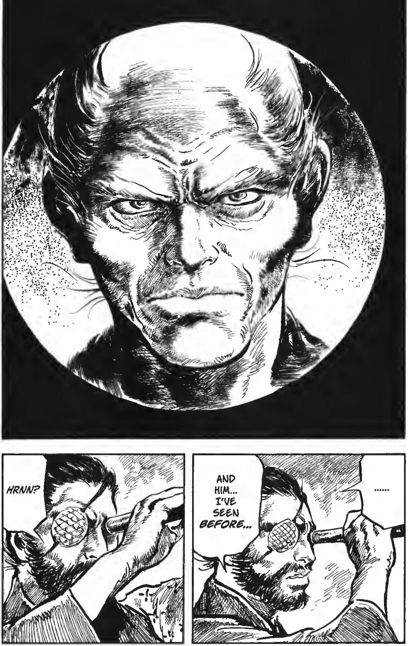
PART 8

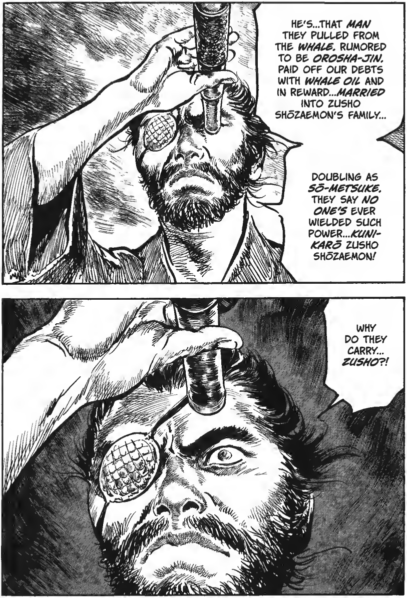

ヒュウウウウウ
WHOOO
ヒュウウ
WHEEOOO
ビヨウウウ
WHOHHHH

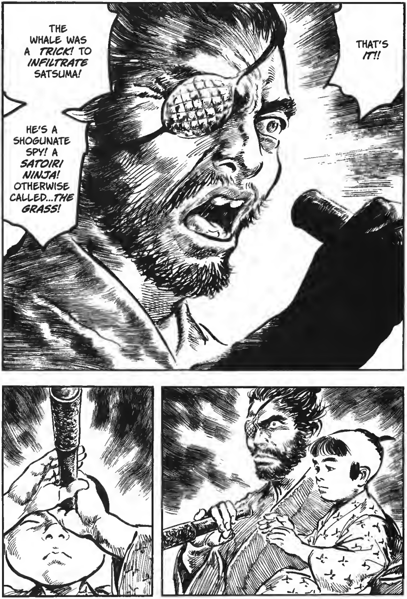

ヒョオオ
WHOHHHH

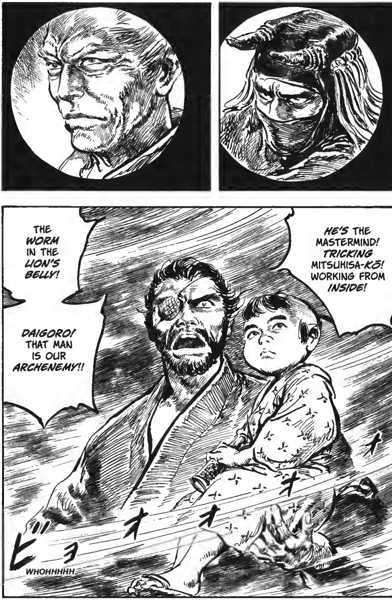


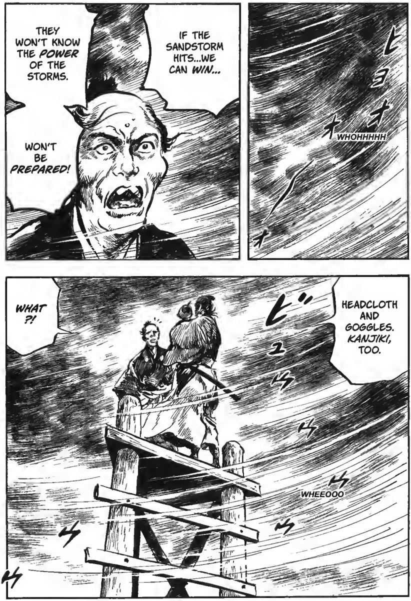

YOUR GLASS.
GLADLY.
THOSE MEN... USHIKU-DONKI.

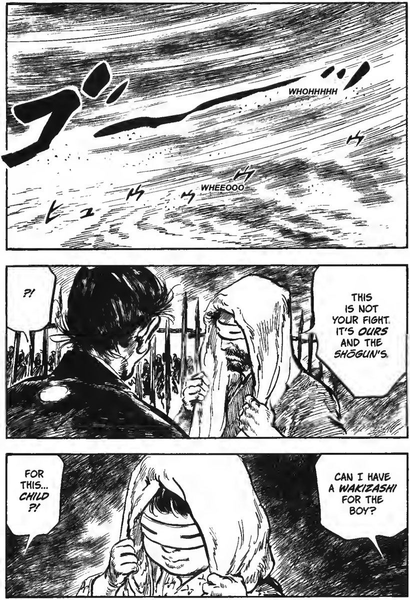

HRNN?
AND HIM... I'VE SEEN *BEFORE...*
......

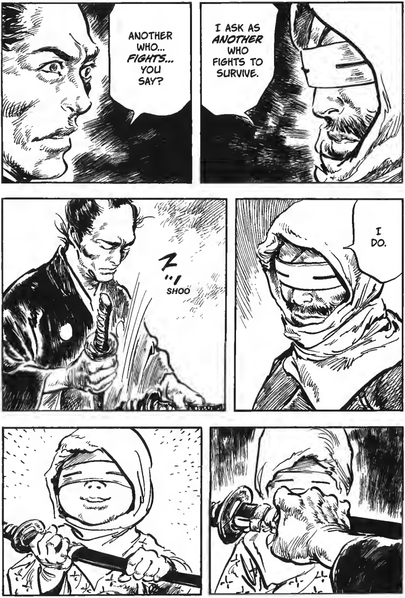

HE'S...THAT *MAN* THEY PULLED FROM THE *WHALE.* RUMORED TO BE *OROSHA-JIN.* PAID OFF OUR DEBTS WITH *WHALE OIL* AND IN REWARD...*MARRIED* INTO ZUSHO SHŌZAEMON'S FAMILY...
DOUBLING AS *SŌ-METSUKE.* THEY SAY *NO ONE'S* EVER WIELDED SUCH POWER...*KUNIKARŌ* ZUSHO SHŌZAEMON!
WHY DO THEY CARRY... *ZUSHO*?!

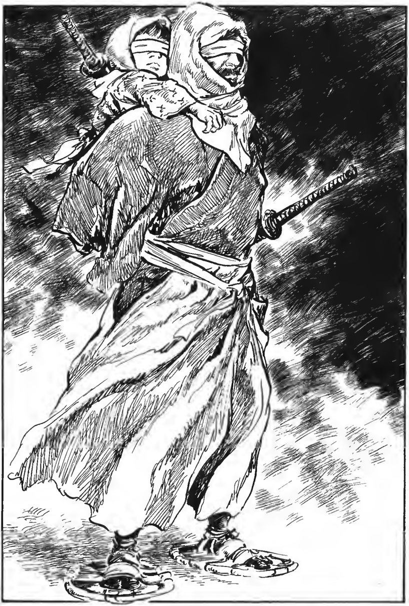

THAT'S *IT!!*
THE WHALE WAS A *TRICK!* TO *INFILTRATE* SATSUMA!
HE'S A SHOGUNATE SPY! A *SATOIRI NINJA!* OTHERWISE CALLED...*THE GRASS!*

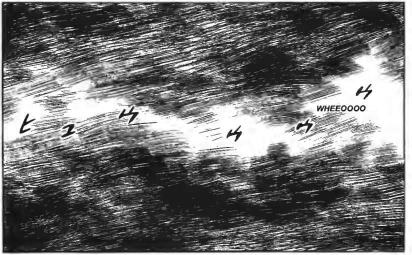

HE'S THE MASTERMIND! *TRICKING* MITSUHISA-*KŌ*! WORKING FROM *INSIDE*!
THE *WORM* IN THE *LION'S BELLY*!
DAIGORO! THAT MAN IS OUR *ARCHENEMY*!!
ビョオオオオ
WHOHHHHH

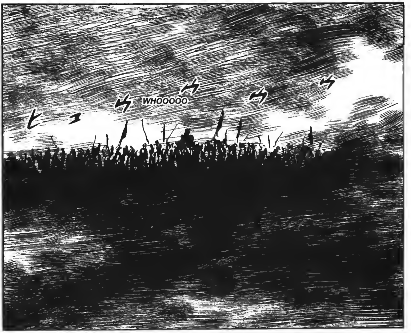

ヒョオオオ
WHOHHHHH
IF THE SANDSTORM HITS...WE CAN *WIN*...
THEY WON'T KNOW THE *POWER* OF THE STORMS.
WON'T BE *PREPARED!*
HEADCLOTH AND GOGGLES. *KANJIKI,* TOO.
WHAT ?!
ビュゥゥゥゥ
WHEEOOO

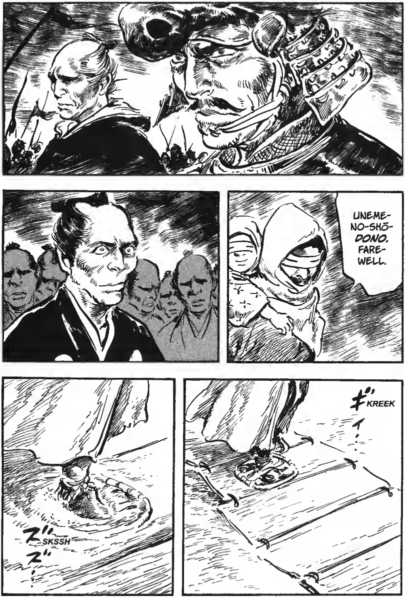

ゴーーッ
WHOHHHHH
ヒュウウウウ
WHEEOOO
THIS IS NOT YOUR FIGHT. IT'S *OURS* AND THE *SHŌGUN'S*.
?!
CAN I HAVE A *WAKIZASHI* FOR THE BOY?
FOR THIS... *CHILD* ?!

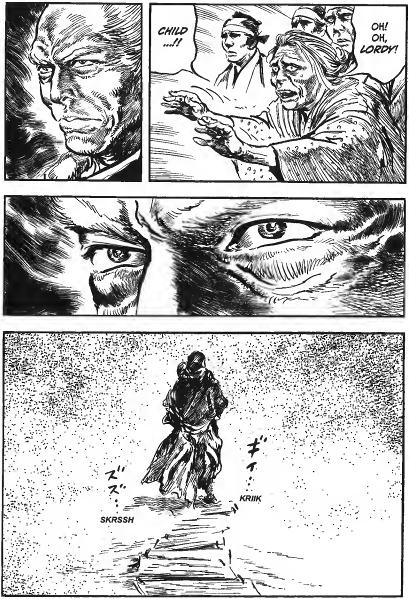

ANOTHER WHO... *FIGHTS...* YOU SAY?
I ASK AS *ANOTHER* WHO FIGHTS TO SURVIVE.
SHOO
I DO.




ヒュウウウウ
WHEEOOOO

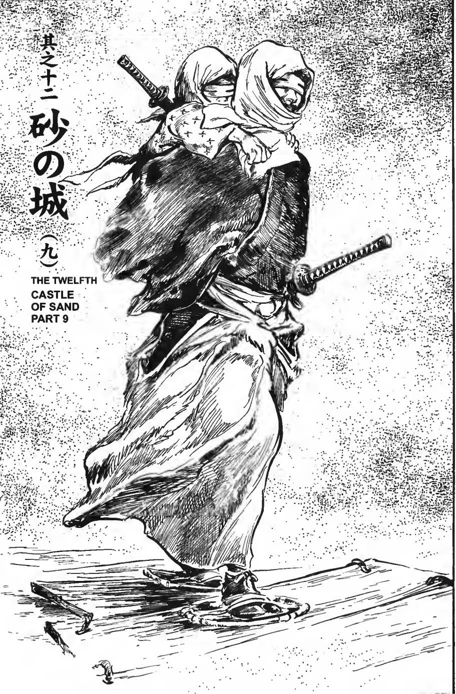

ヒュウウウウ
WHOOOOO

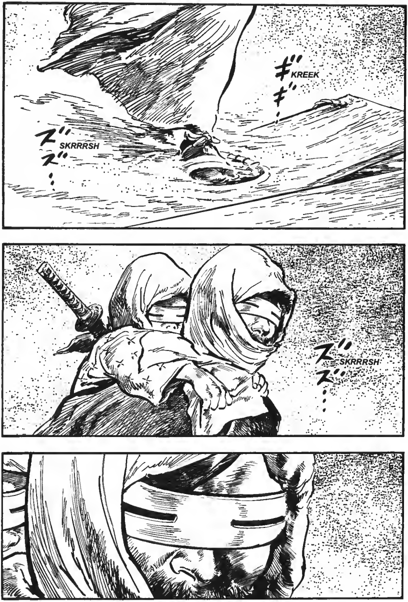

UNEME-NO-SHŌ-DONO. FAREWELL.
ズ SKSSH ズ
ギ KREEK イ

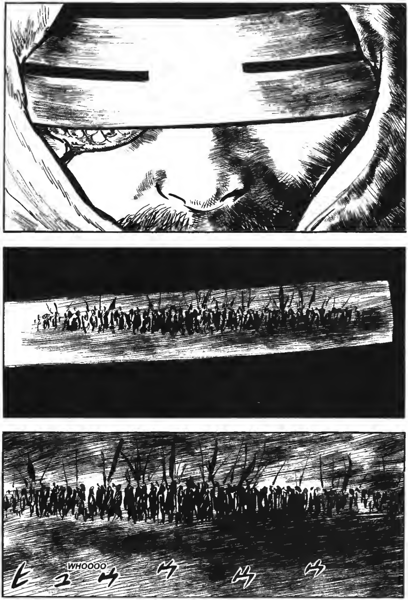

CHILD ...!!
OH! OH, LORDY!
ズズ…
SKRSSH
ギイ…
KRIIK

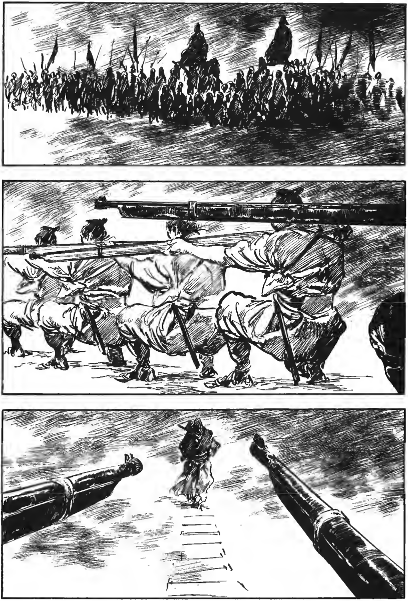
其之十二 砂の城 （九）

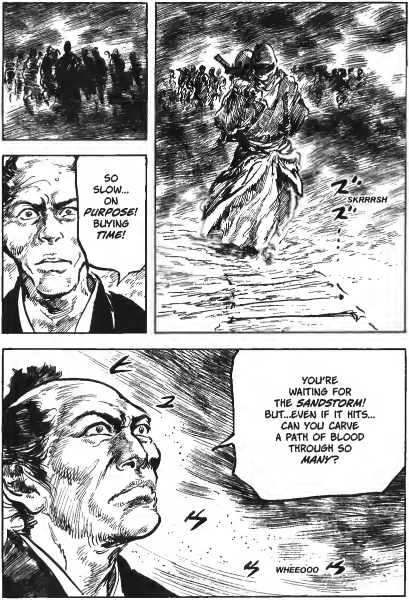
THE TWELFTH
CASTLE OF SAND
PART 9

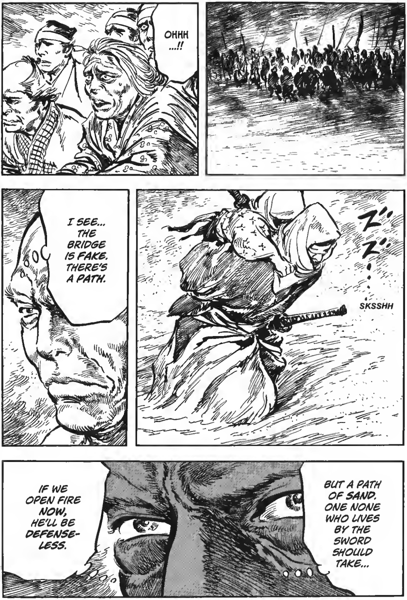


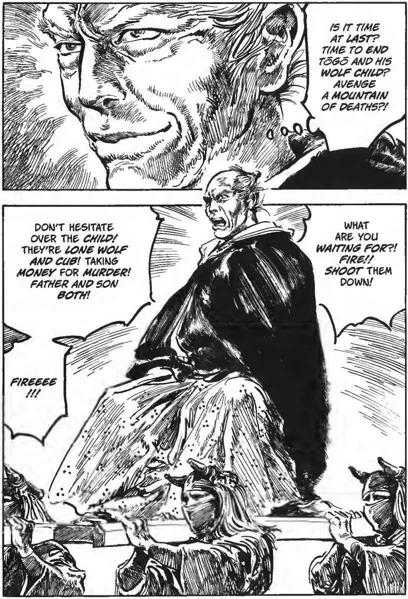

ギ KREEK ギ
ズ SKRRRSH ズ
ズ SKRRRSH ズ

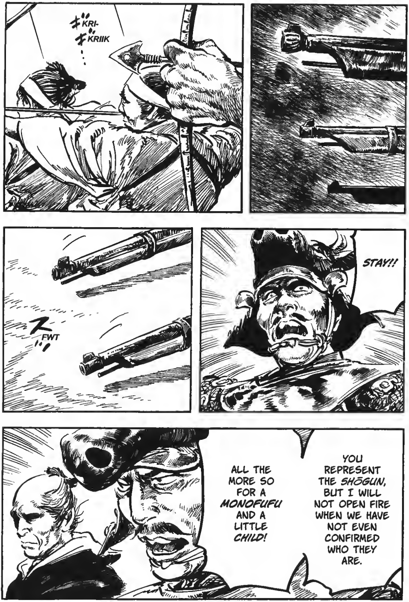

ヒュゥゥゥゥ
WHOOOO

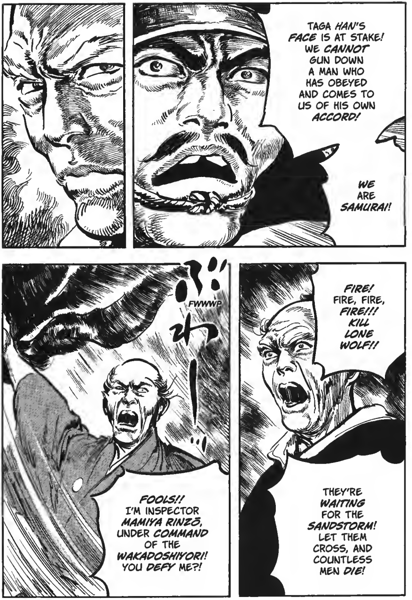


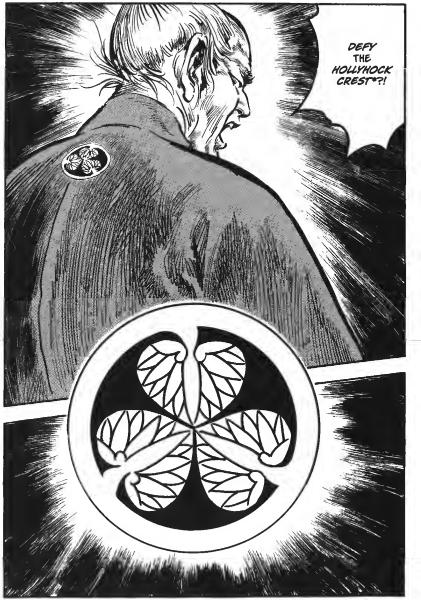

SKRRRSH
SO SLOW... ON *PURPOSE!* BUYING *TIME!*
YOU'RE WAITING FOR THE *SANDSTORM!* BUT...EVEN IF IT HITS... CAN YOU CARVE A PATH OF BLOOD THROUGH SO *MANY?*
WHEEOOO


OHHH ...!!
ZZ SKSSHH
I SEE... THE BRIDGE IS FAKE. THERE'S A PATH.
BUT A PATH OF SAND. ONE NONE WHO LIVES BY THE SWORD SHOULD TAKE...
IF WE OPEN FIRE NOW, HE'LL BE DEFENSELESS.

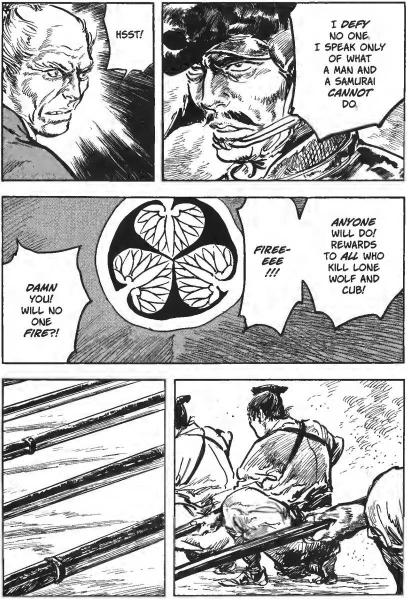

IS IT TIME AT LAST? TIME TO END TŌGŌ AND HIS WOLF CHILD? AVENGE A MOUNTAIN OF DEATHS?!
DON'T HESITATE OVER THE CHILD! THEY'RE LONE WOLF AND CUB! TAKING MONEY FOR MURDER! FATHER AND SON BOTH!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! FIRE!! SHOOT THEM DOWN!
FIREEEE !!!

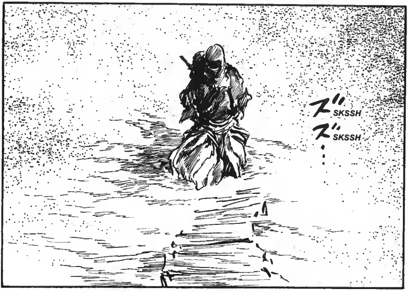

KRI-
KRIIK
FWT
STAY!!
YOU REPRESENT THE *SHŌGUN*, BUT I WILL NOT OPEN FIRE WHEN WE HAVE NOT EVEN CONFIRMED WHO THEY ARE.
ALL THE MORE SO FOR A *MONOFUFU* AND A LITTLE *CHILD!*

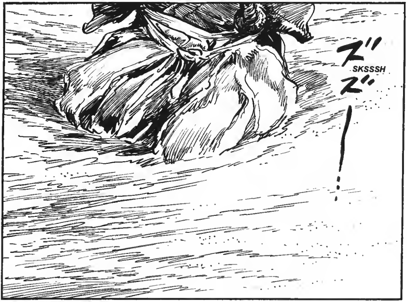

TAGA HAN'S FACE IS AT STAKE! WE CANNOT GUN DOWN A MAN WHO HAS OBEYED AND COMES TO US OF HIS OWN ACCORD!
WE ARE SAMURAI!
FIRE! FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!!! KILL LONE WOLF!!
THEY'RE WAITING FOR THE SANDSTORM! LET THEM CROSS, AND COUNTLESS MEN DIE!
ぶわっ!
FWWWP
FOOLS!! I'M INSPECTOR MAMIYA RINZŌ, UNDER COMMAND OF THE WAKADOSHIYORI! YOU DEFY ME?!

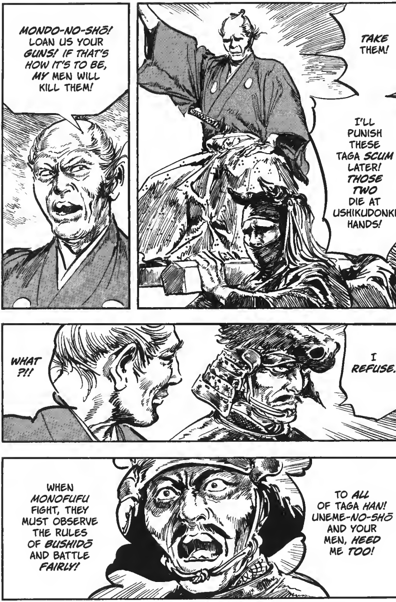

DEFY THE HOLLYHOCK CREST*?!

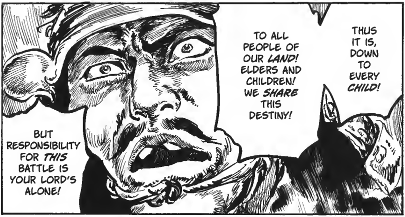
*SEE FOOTNOTES

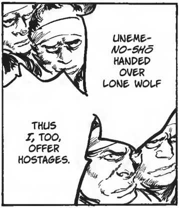

HSST!
I *DEFY* NO ONE. I SPEAK ONLY OF WHAT A MAN AND A SAMURAI *CANNOT* DO.
DAMN YOU! WILL NO ONE *FIRE?!*
FIREE-EEE!!!
ANYONE WILL DO! REWARDS TO *ALL* WHO KILL LONE WOLF AND CUB!

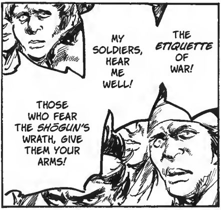

ズ" SKSSH
ズ" SKSSH
…

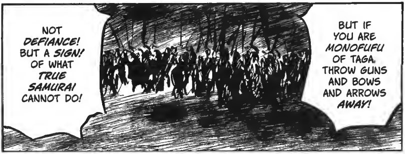

ズ" SKSSSH
ズ"
!

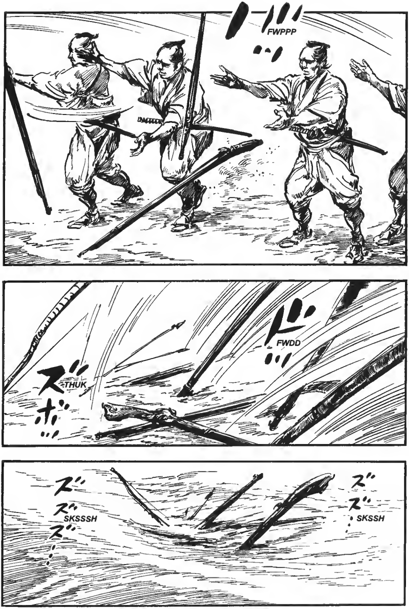

MONDO-NO-SHŌ! LOAN US YOUR GUNS! IF THAT'S HOW IT'S TO BE, MY MEN WILL KILL THEM!
TAKE THEM!
I'LL PUNISH THESE TAGA SCUM LATER! THOSE TWO DIE AT USHIKUDONKI HANDS!
WHAT?!!
I REFUSE.
WHEN MONOFUFU FIGHT, THEY MUST OBSERVE THE RULES OF BUSHIDŌ AND BATTLE FAIRLY!
TO ALL OF TAGA HAN! UNEME-NO-SHŌ AND YOUR MEN, HEED ME TOO!

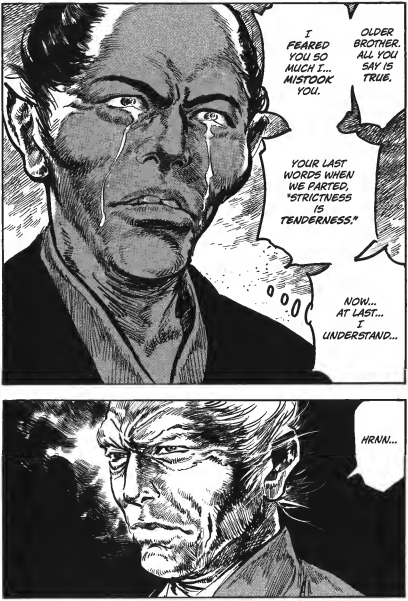

THUS IT IS, DOWN TO EVERY *CHILD!*
TO ALL PEOPLE OF OUR *LAND!* ELDERS AND CHILDREN! WE *SHARE* THIS DESTINY!
BUT RESPONSIBILITY FOR *THIS* BATTLE IS YOUR LORD'S ALONE!

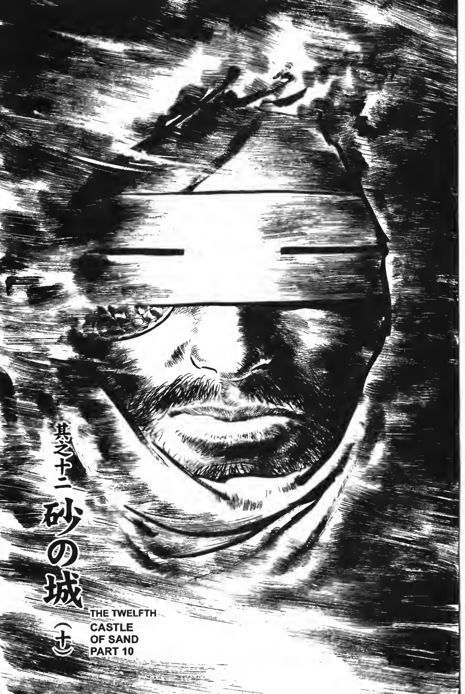

UNEME-*NO-SHŌ* HANDED OVER LONE WOLF
THUS *I,* TOO, OFFER HOSTAGES.


THE *ETIQUETTE* OF WAR!
MY SOLDIERS, HEAR ME WELL!
THOSE WHO FEAR THE *SHŌGUN'S* WRATH, GIVE THEM YOUR ARMS!


BUT IF YOU ARE *MONOFUFU* OF TAGA, THROW GUNS AND BOWS AND ARROWS *AWAY!*
NOT *DEFIANCE!* BUT A *SIGN!* OF WHAT *TRUE SAMURAI* CANNOT DO!

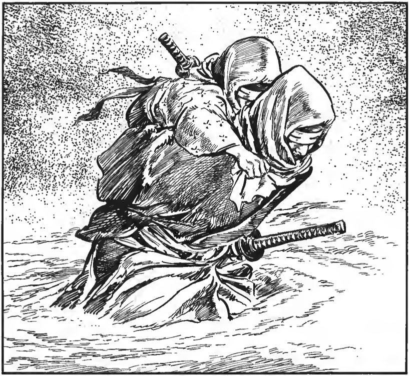

FWPPP
ドッ
FWDD
ズボッ
THUK
ズズズ
SKSSSH
ズズ
SKSSH

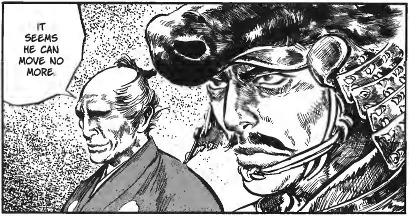

OLDER BROTHER. ALL YOU SAY IS TRUE.
I FEARED YOU SO MUCH I... MISTOOK YOU.
YOUR LAST WORDS WHEN WE PARTED, "STRICTNESS IS TENDERNESS."
NOW... AT LAST... I UNDERSTAND...
HRNN...

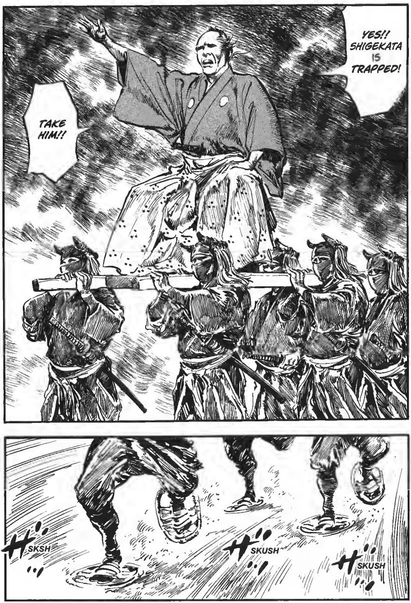


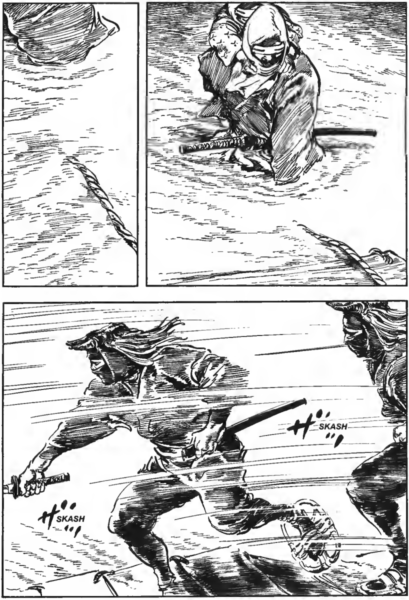
其之十二 砂の城（十）

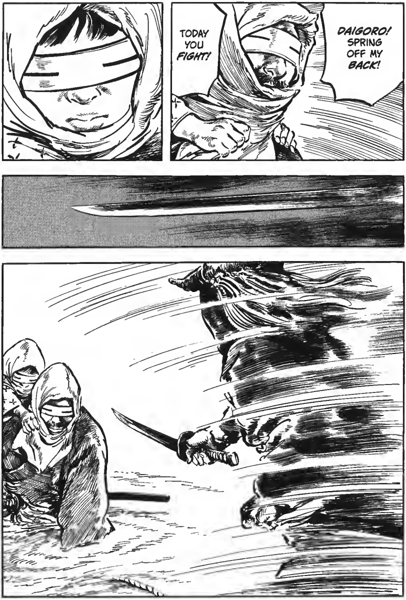
THE TWELFTH
CASTLE OF SAND
PART 10

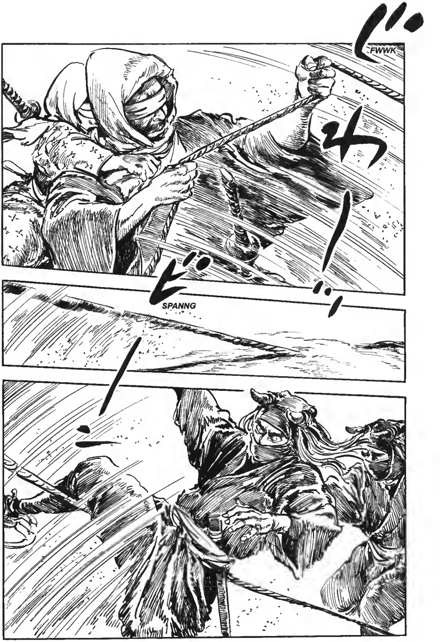


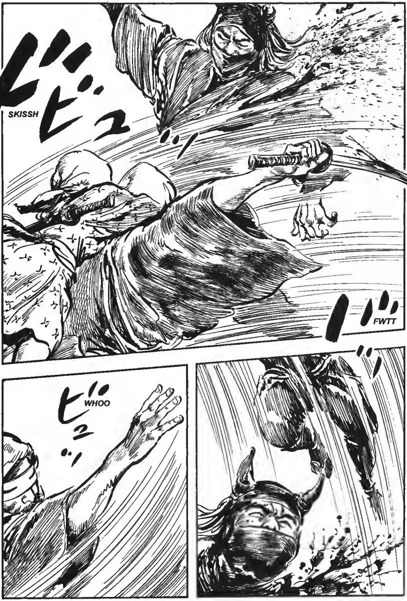

IT SEEMS HE CAN MOVE NO MORE.

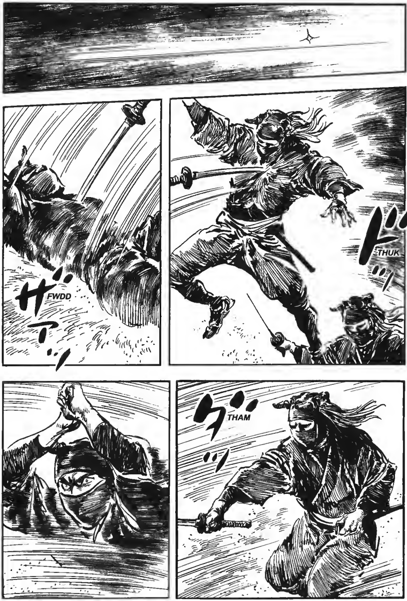

YES!! SHIGEKATA IS TRAPPED!
TAKE HIM!!
SKUSH
SKUSH
SKSH

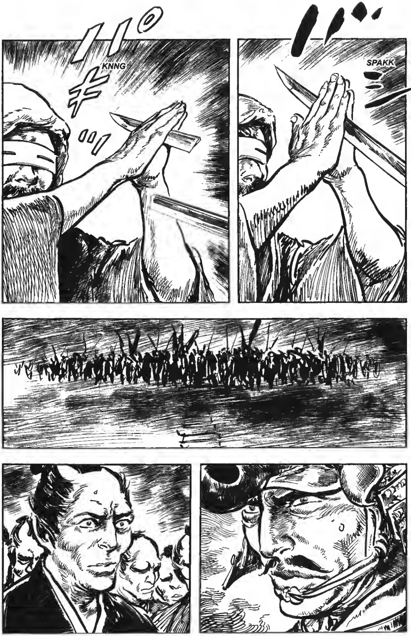

SKASH
SKASH

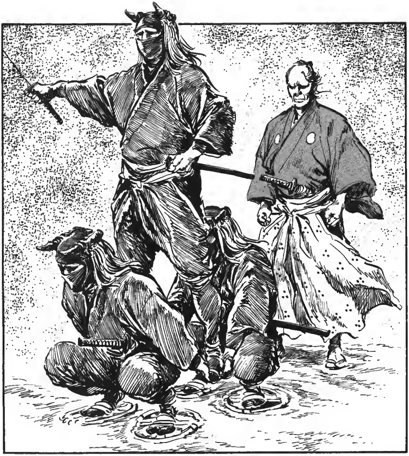

DAIGORO! SPRING OFF MY BACK!
TODAY YOU FIGHT!

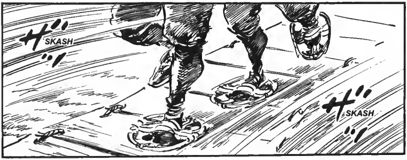

FWWK
SPANNG

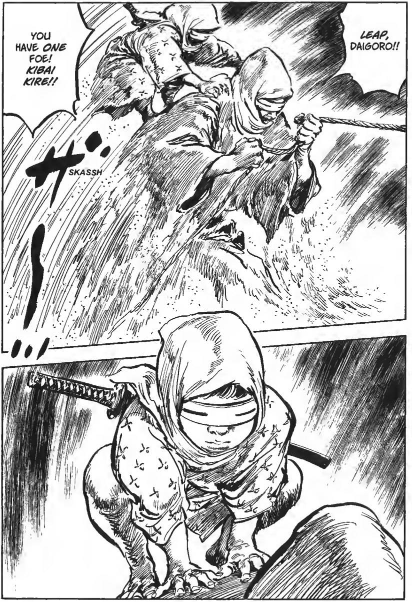

ドッ
FWTT
ドビュッ
SKISSH
ビュッ
WHOO

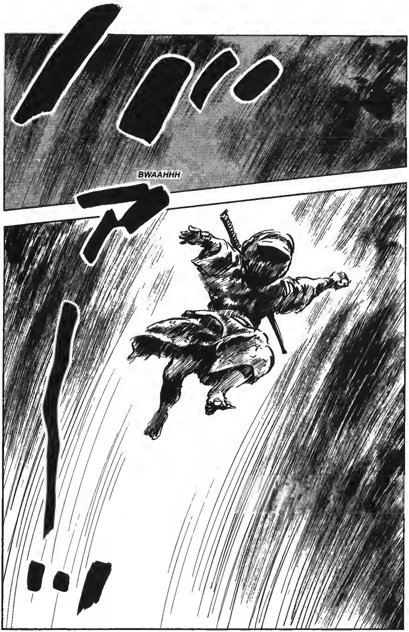

ドッ
THUK
ザァッ
FWDD
ヴッ
THAM

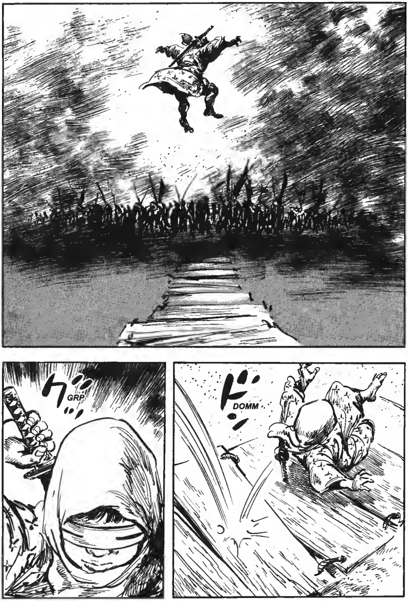

KNNG
SPAKK

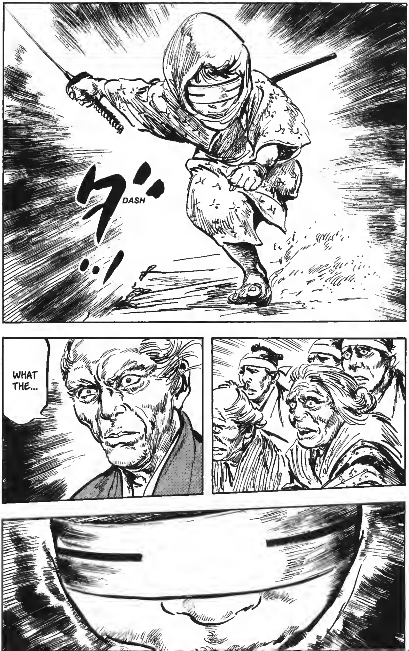


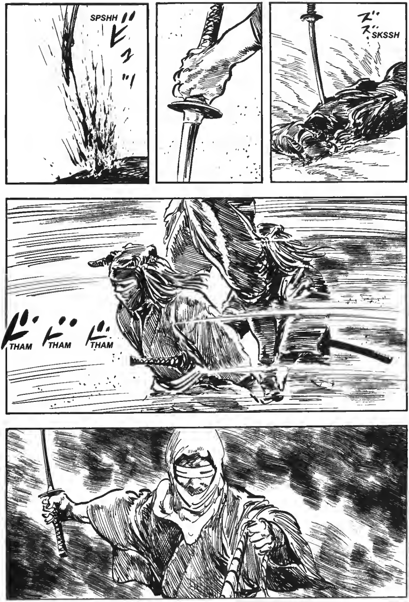

SKASH
SKASH

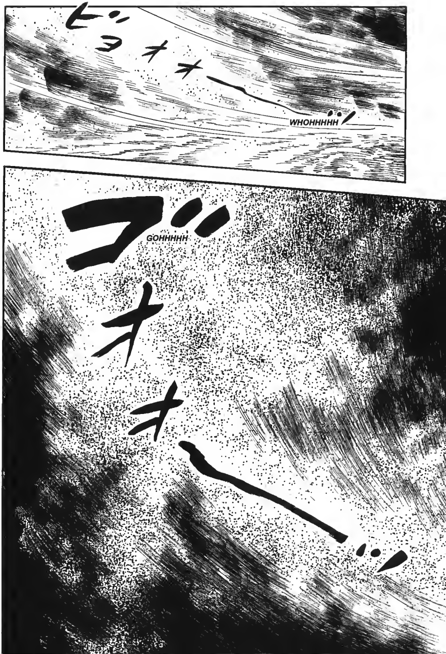

LEAP, DAIGORO!!
YOU HAVE ONE FOE! KIBAI KIRE!!
ザッ..!
SKASSH


バアー!!
BWAAHHH


グッ
GRP
ドン
DOMM


ダッ
DASH
WHAT THE...

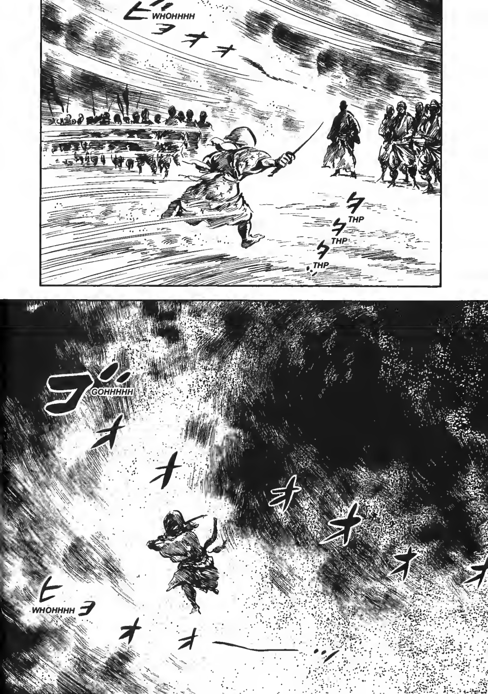

ズズ
SKSSH
ビュッ
SPSHH
ド
THAM
ド
THAM
ド
THAM

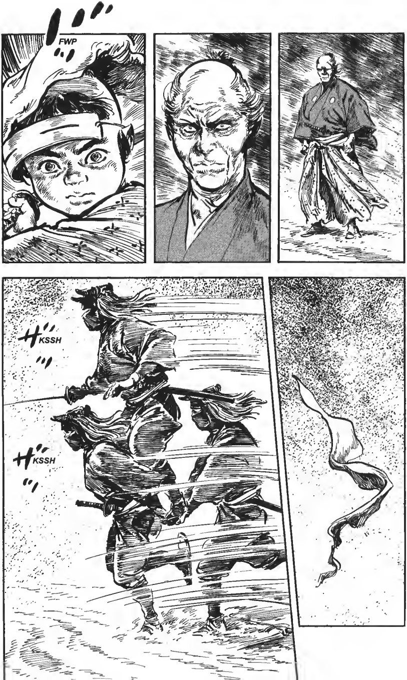

ビョオオー…!
WHOHHHHH
ゴオオー…!
GOHHHHH

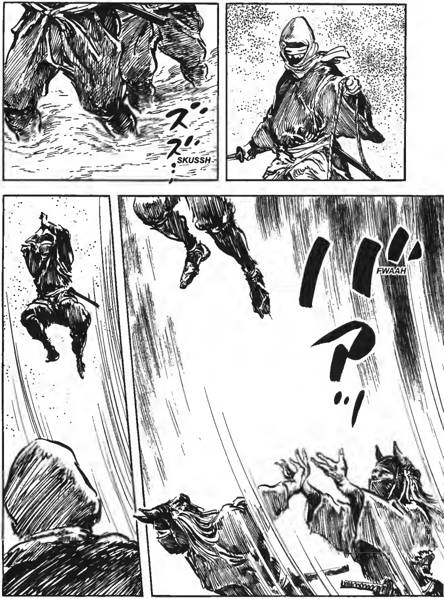
其之十二

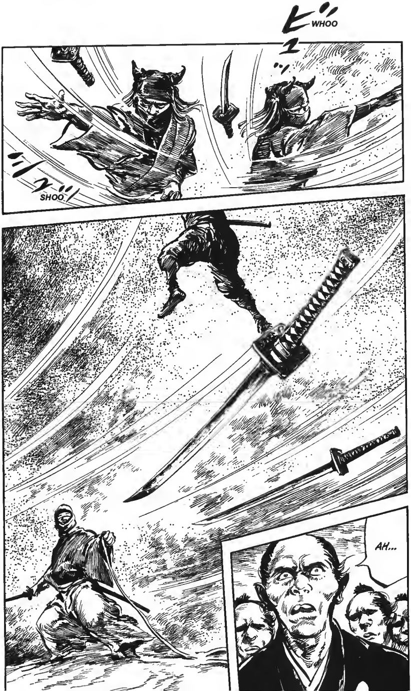
砂の城（十一）

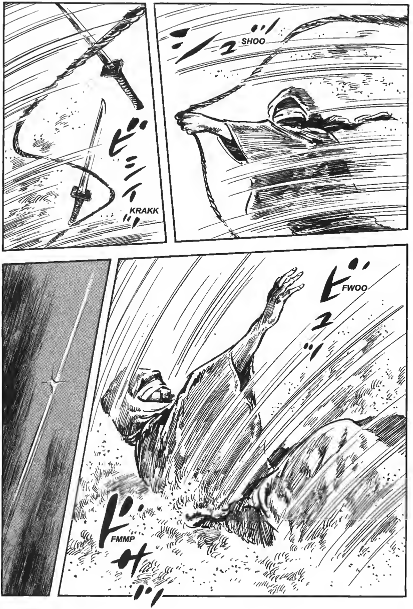
THE TWELFTH
CASTLE OF SAND
PART 11

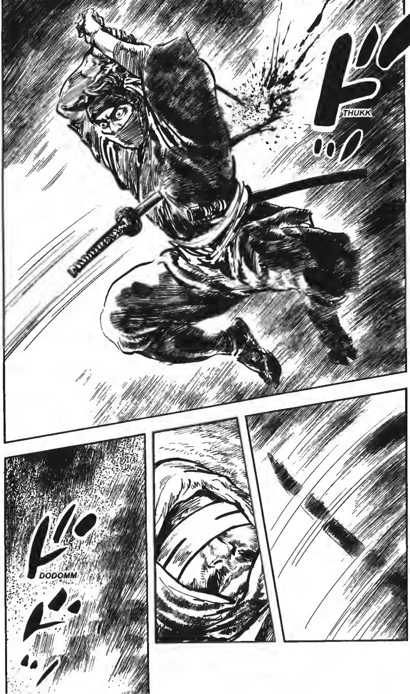

ビヨォォ
WHOHHHH
タタタッ
THP
THP
THP
ゴォォォォォォ
GOHHHHH
ヒョオオーッ
WHOHHHH

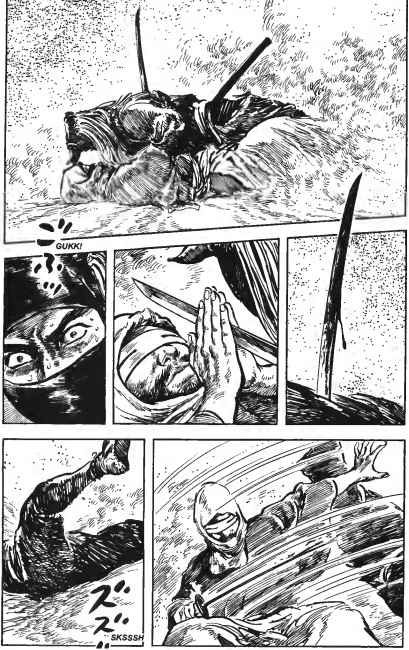

FWP
KSSH
KSSH

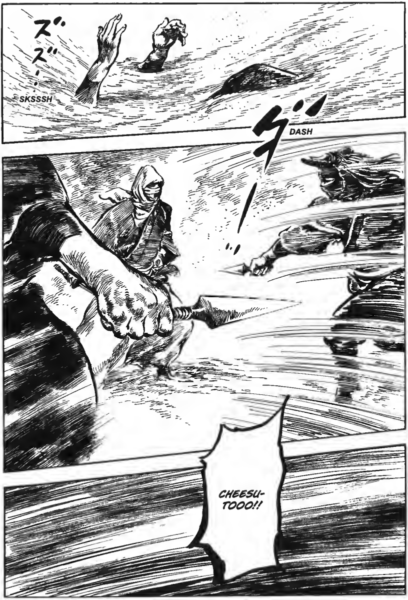

ズズ…
SKUSSH
バアッ
FWAAH

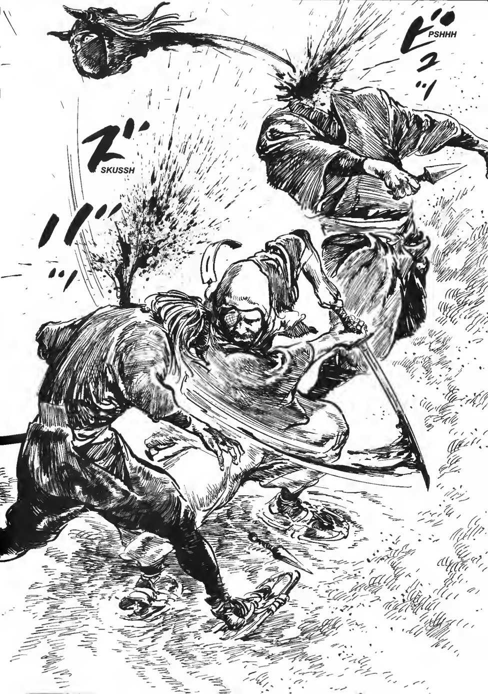

ビュッ
WHOO
シュッ
SHOO
AH...


シュッ
SHOO
ビシィッ
KRAKK
ビュッ
FWOO
ドサッ
FMMP

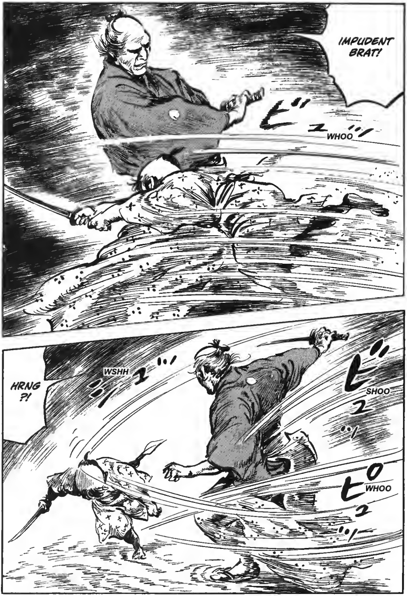

ド
THUKK
ド
ド
DODOMM

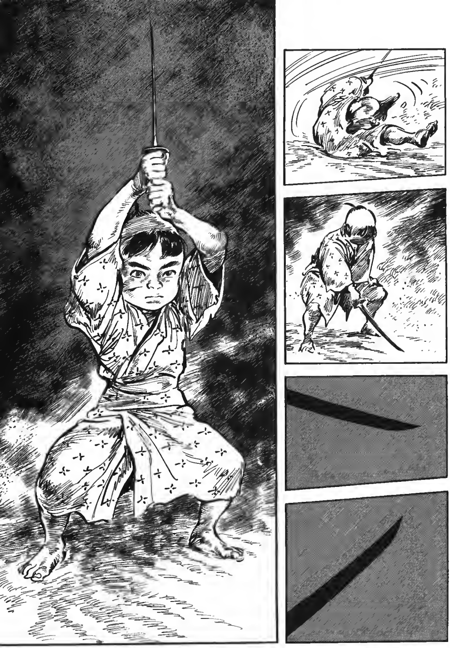

GUKK!
ズズ
SKSSSH

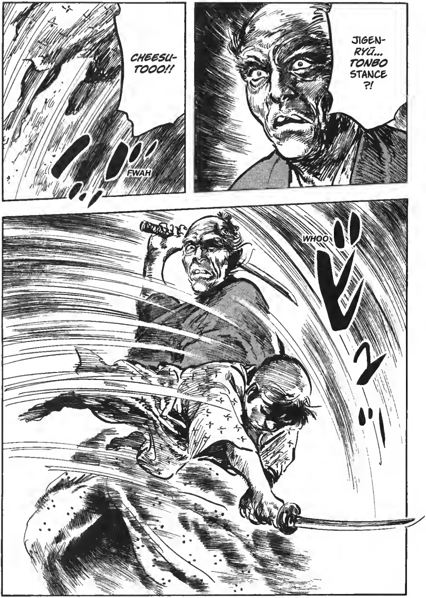

ズズ…
SKSSSH
ダッ
DASH
CHEESU-TOOO!!

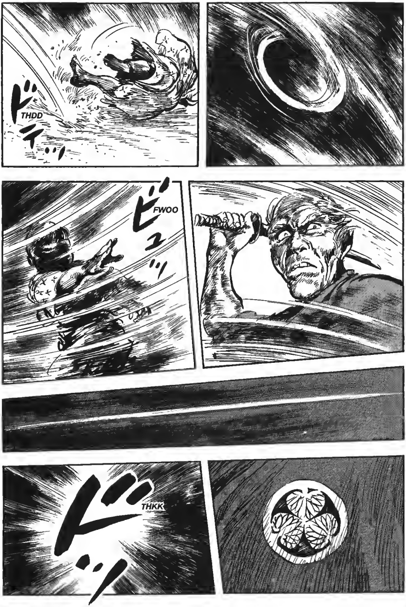

ビュッ
PSHHH
ズバッ
SKUSSH

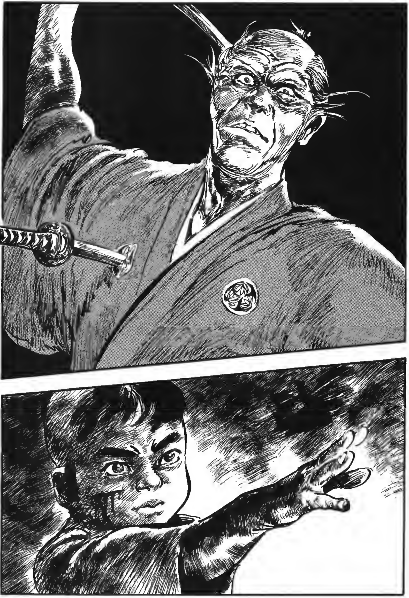
ゴオオオオオ
GOHHHHHH

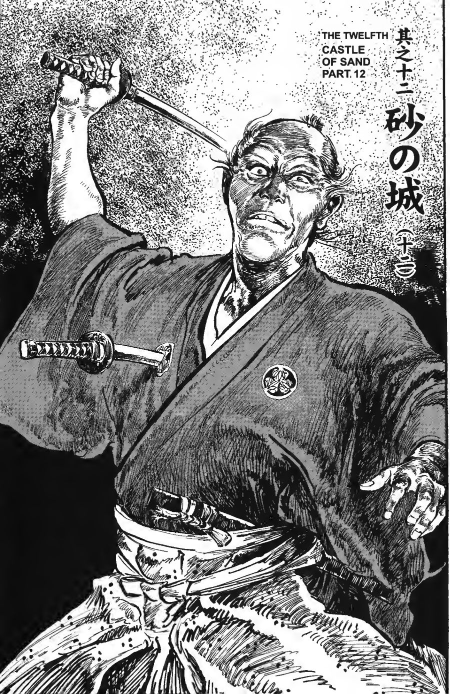

IMPUDENT BRAT!
ビュッ
WHOO
ビュッ
SHOO
ピュッ
WHOO
ユッ
WSHH
HRNG ?!

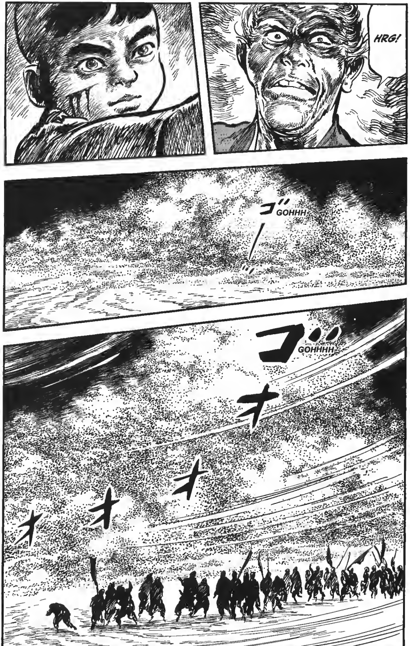


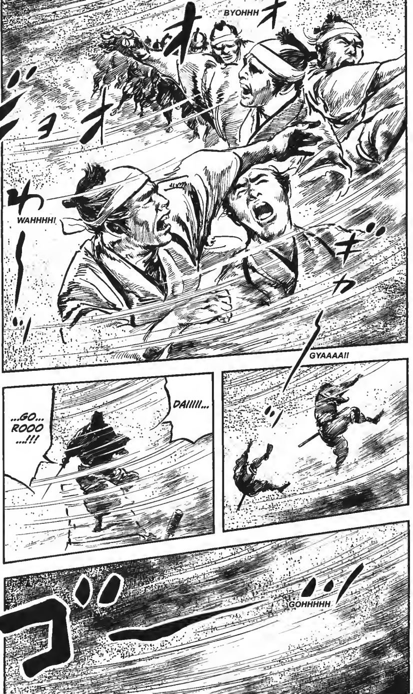

JIGEN-RYŪ... TONBO STANCE ?!
CHEESU-TOOO!!
FWAH
WHOO
ビュッ

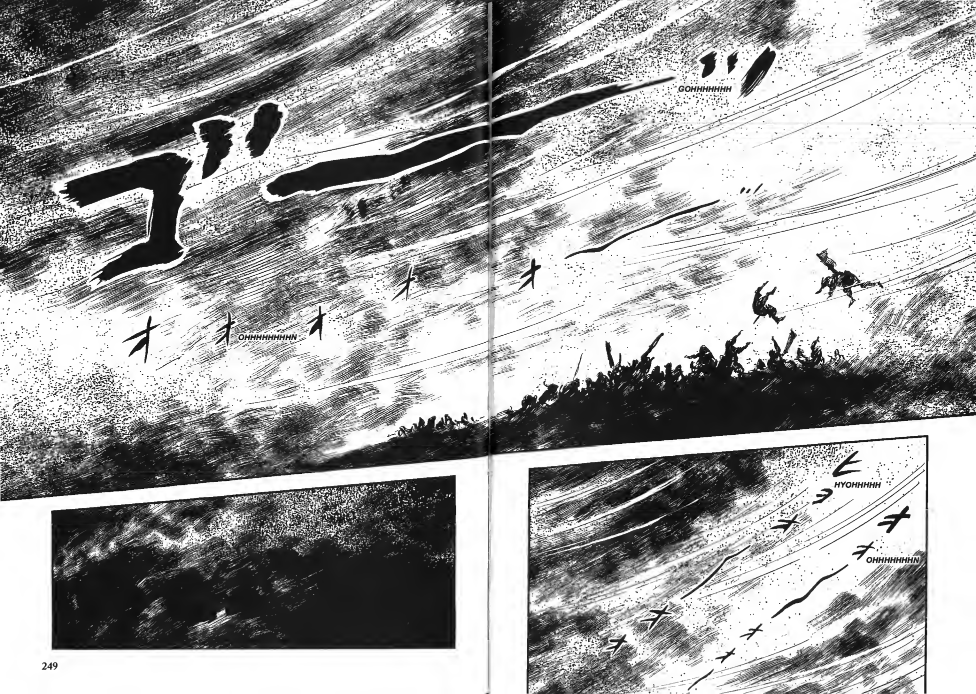

ドテッ
THDD
ビュッ
FWOO
ドッ
THKK

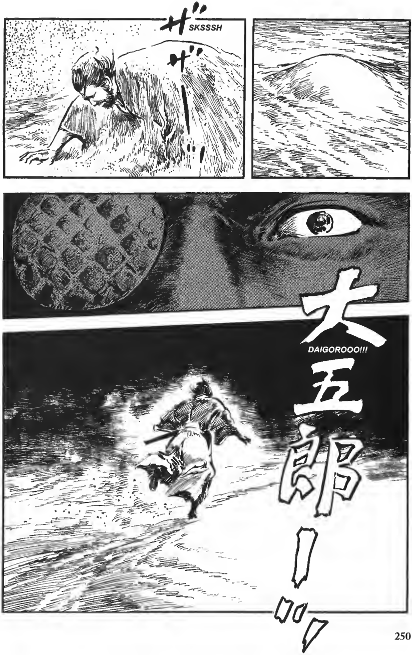



其之十二
砂の城（十二）
THE TWELFTH
CASTLE
OF SAND
PART. 12


HRG!
ゴ GOHHH
ゴ GOHHHH
オ
オ
オ
オ


ビョオオオ
BYOHHH
わーーッ
WAHHHH!
ギャーッ
GYAAAA!!
DAIIIII...
...GO... ROOO ...!!!
ゴーーッ
GOHHHHH


ゴーーッ
GOHHHHHHH
オオオオオ
OHHHHHHHHN
ヒョオオオオ
HYOHHHHH
オオオオオオ
OHHHHHHHN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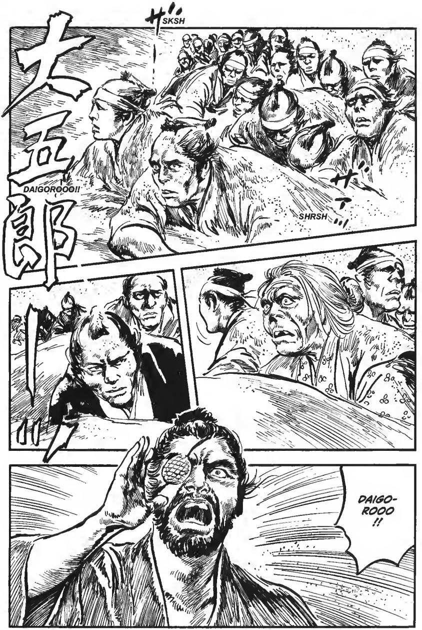
SKSSSH
ザーッ
大五郎ーッ
DAIGOROOO!!!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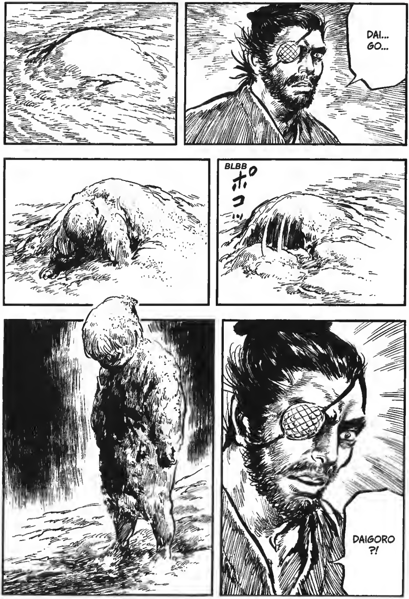
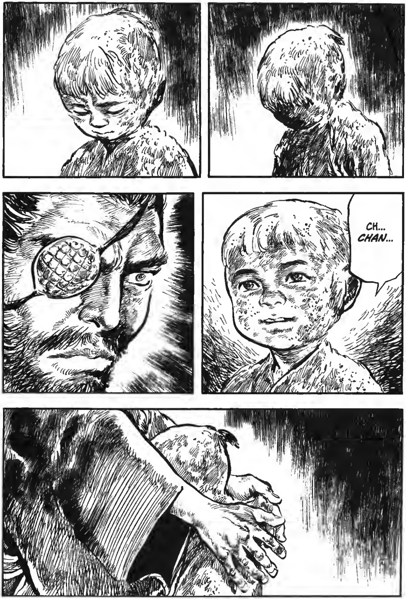
ROOO
!!


DAI... GO...
BLBB
ポコッ
DAIGORO ?!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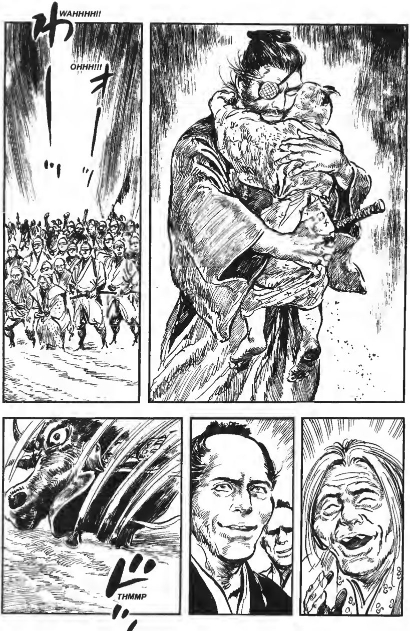
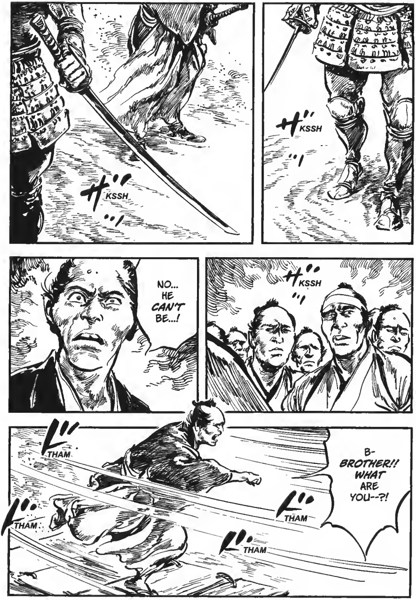
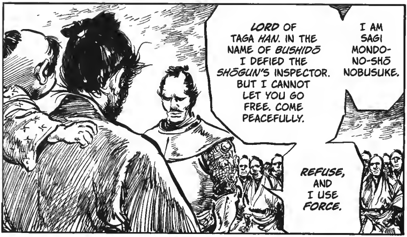
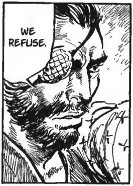
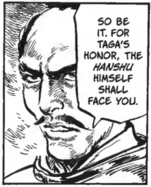
CHAN...

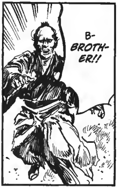

ワーッ
WAHHHHH!!
オーッ
OHHH!!!
ドッ
THMMP

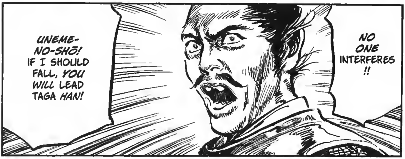

KSSH
KSSH
NO... HE *CAN'T* BE...!
KSSH
THAM
THAM
THAM
THAM
B- *BROTHER!! WHAT* ARE YOU--?!

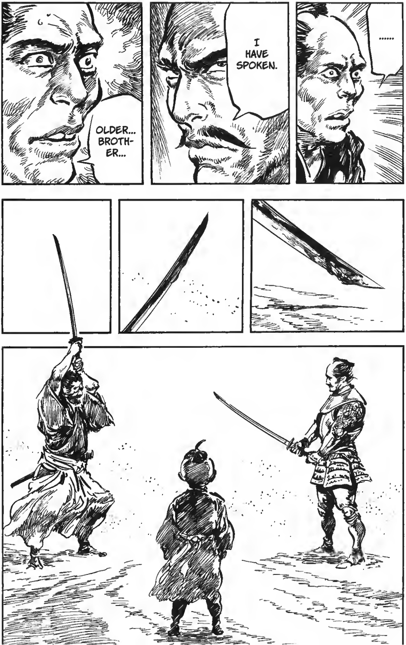

I AM SAGI MONDO-NO-SHŌ NOBUSUKE.
LORD OF TAGA *HAN*. IN THE NAME OF *BUSHIDŌ* I DEFIED THE *SHŌGUN'S* INSPECTOR. BUT I CANNOT LET YOU GO FREE. COME PEACEFULLY.
REFUSE, AND I USE *FORCE.*

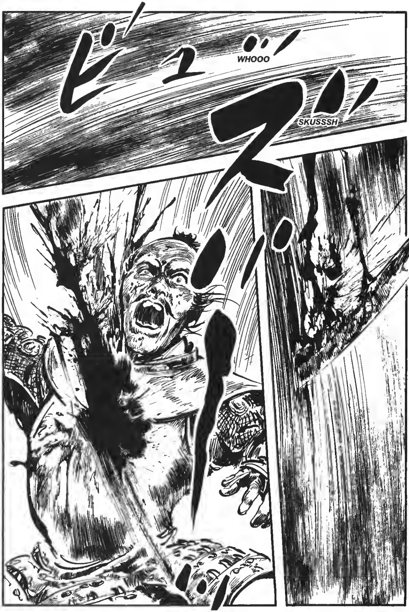

WE REFUSE.

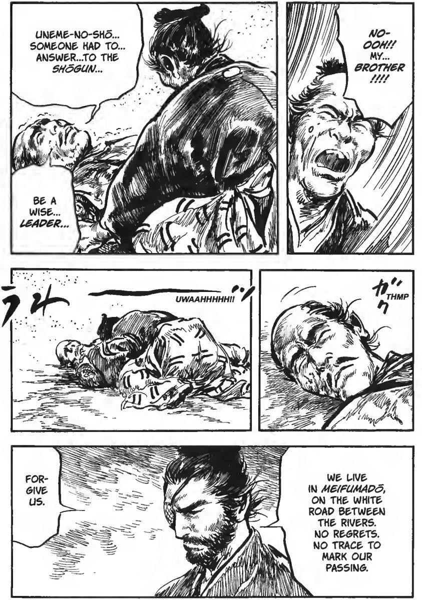

SO BE IT. FOR TAGA'S HONOR, THE *HANSHU* HIMSELF SHALL FACE YOU.

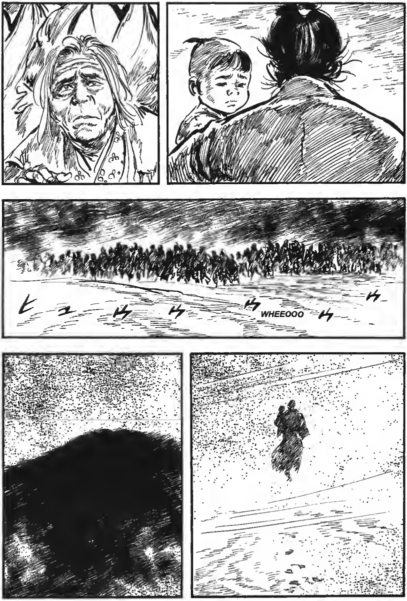

B-*BROTHER!!*


NO ONE INTERFERES *!!*
UNEME-NO-SHŌ! IF I SHOULD FALL, *YOU WILL* LEAD TAGA *HAN!*


OLDER... BROTHER...
I HAVE SPOKEN.
......


ビュッ
WHOOO
ズッ
SKUSSSH


UNEME-NO-SHŌ... SOMEONE HAD TO... ANSWER...TO THE *SHŌGUN*...
BE A WISE... *LEADER*...
NO-OOH!! MY... *BROTHER !!!!*
ウム
UWAAHHHHH!!
ガク
THMP
FOR-GIVE US.
WE LIVE IN *MEIFUMADŌ*, ON THE WHITE ROAD BETWEEN THE RIVERS. NO REGRETS. NO TRACE TO MARK OUR PASSING.



THE TWELFTH: CASTLE OF SAND. THE END

NEW LONE WOLF AND CUB BOOK SIX. THE END

FOOTNOTES

Page 6: Two separate spy apparatuses reported to the *rōjū* senior councilors and to the *wakadoshiyori* junior councilors. The Hattori clan historically reported to the *rōjū*. The semifictional Ushikudonki here report to junior councilors.

Page 17: The Dutch trading post of Dejima in Nagasaki was Japan's only official door to the West under the Tokugawa's "closed country" policy, and Japanese doctors traveled there to study Western medicine.

Page 26: The *kiai* battle cry of the Jigen-*ryū* sword school, founded by the historical Tōgō Shigekata (also called Tōgō Chūi). Jigen-*ryū* calls for defeating your enemy with an unblockable first stroke.

Page 47: In the Edo period, Ezo (also rendered as Ezochi) referred to today's northern island of Hokkaido and other smaller islands where the early indigenous inhabitants of northern Japan, known today as the Ainu, were found.

Page 204: The *mitsuba aoi* circle of three hollyhock leaves was the family crest of the Tokugawa clan. Those who were allowed to bear the crest were direct extensions of the Tokugawa shogunate.

GLOSSARY

amai Sweet. Also, to underestimate a person or situation.

amaka Satsuma dialect for *amai* (sweet).

bushidō The way of the warrior.

-dono An archaic honorific suffix, a marker of respect for higher-ranked or highly respected figures.

Edo The capital of medieval Japan and the seat of the shogunate. The site of modern-day Tokyo.

han A feudal domain.

Jigen-ryū The sword school founded by the historical Tōgō Shigekata.

kanjiki Traditional Japanese snowshoes. Here repurposed for use on sand.

kibai kire Satsuma dialect: "Don't give up!"

koku A bale of rice. The traditional measure of a *han*'s wealth, agricultural land, and productivity.

kuni-karō A chief house elder.

meifumadō The Buddhist hell. The way of demons and damnation.

monofufu A samurai, a warrior who lives by *bushidō*.

mu The Buddhist concept of nothingness. Complete freedom from the self.

ninja A covert agent or mercenary of feudal Japan.

ohan Satsuma dialect: you, your.

o-kami A term of respect for the head of a *han* or for other superiors.

oranda An Edo-period rendering of "Holland," meaning both Holland and the Dutch, and often used to refer to all things Western.

orosha-jin A Russian. *Russia* was pronounced "orosha" in Edo-era Japan.

ōtono Satsuma dialect: the lord, my lord.

rōnin A masterless samurai. Literally, "one adrift on the waves."

ryō A gold piece worth sixty *monme*.

-sama An honorific suffix, a marker of respect used for superiors.

satoiri ninja Ninja of the *sato* (homeland). In addition to the ninja based in Edo, the shogunate placed ninja undercover in the various *han* of rival lords. These moles would monitor dissident *han* and gather evidence that could be used to blackmail or dissolve a *han* when it stepped out of line.

TO PAGE 263

FROM PAGE 262

shōgun One of Japan's military governors from the twelfth to nineteenth centuries.

sō-metsuke The senior law-enforcement officer of the shogunate, reporting directly to the *rōjū* senior councilors who advised the shogun. Also called *ō-metsuke.*

sutepuchi A compassionate allowance, usually given to someone who is disadvantaged in life.

tonbo Dragonfly.

wakadoshiyori Junior councilors. The Tokugawa shogunate was a hybrid government, both a national government empowered by the emperor to govern the nation as a whole, and a *daimyō* government like that of any *han*. The council of *wakadoshiyori* junior councilors was the highest advisory body to the *shōgun* on matters affecting the clan, rather than the nation as a whole.

wakizashi A short sword. The shorter of the two swords worn by samurai.

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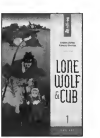

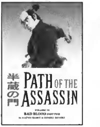

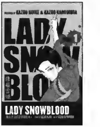

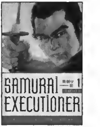

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